

Maryland Archeology Month

1776

250 YEARS, MANY VOICES:

2026

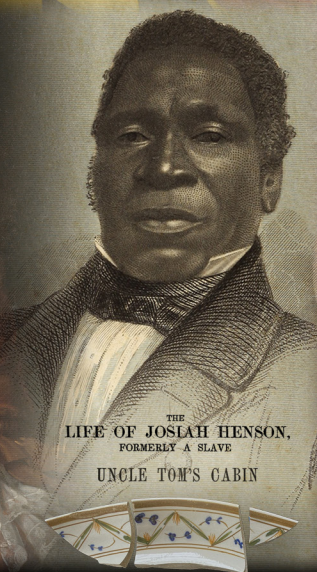
DIGGING INTO MARYLAND'S STORY

The *MARYLAND GAZETTE*.

Choptico Indian Towne



Anne Catharine Hoof Green



Josiah Henson



Rico Newman

Voices Told Through

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Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH APRIL 2026

- WHEREAS, The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026, invites reflection through Maryland's archeological record, which reveals stories of revolution and innovation across all times and communities and encourages inclusive conversations about our shared past that inform who we are today; and
- WHEREAS, Maryland's many remarkable archeological discoveries at such sites as the colonial capital of Annapolis, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Herman Barton Village, the Josiah Henson Birthplace, Mount Culvert, the Harriet Tubman Birth Site, and St. Mary's City are of state and national significance; and
- WHEREAS, Archeological sites provide a tangible link to at least 13,000 years of human occupation in Maryland, deepen our understanding of the state's diverse history and culture, and reveal otherwise unavailable information about the origins of our communities and traditions; and
- WHEREAS, The protection, study, and interpretation of these unique and irreplaceable links to the past provide educational, scientific, and economic benefits for all citizens; and
- WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Trust has coordinated with the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, Montgomery County Department of Parks, the Archeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Maryland Department of Transportation, Historic St. Mary's City, and other individuals and organizations to inform and involve the public in the excitement of archeological discovery in our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim APRIL 2026 as MARYLAND ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of April
Two Thousand and twenty-six

Wes Moore
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Dr. Anna Miller
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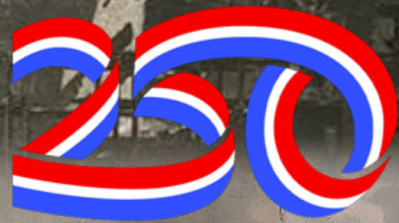
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250 Years, Many Voices:



Digging into Maryland's Story

Zachary Singer | Chair, Maryland Archeology Month Committee

Scott Strickland | Poster Designer, Maryland Archeology Month Committee

The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States on July 4, 2026, invites reflection through Maryland's archaeological record, which reveals stories of revolution, resilience, and innovation across diverse communities and time periods. Maryland Archeology Month 2026 commemorates this milestone by highlighting Maryland's roles before, during, and after the Revolutionary War, exploring investigations of military campsites, uncovering everyday life in revolutionary Maryland, and reframing traditional "founding" narratives.

The articles in this booklet illustrate the wealth of information preserved in Maryland's archaeological record, which allows us to better understand the diverse peoples and communities who shaped our shared past. In recognition of the United States' Semiquincentennial, these studies highlight stories of revolution, perseverance, creativity and everyday life across Maryland before, during, and after the American Revolution. Together, they illuminate the role archaeology plays in expanding our understanding of the nation's founding through inclusive, evidence-based interpretation.

The cover of this booklet, which also serves as the Maryland Archeology Month Poster, illustrates three of the notable "Many Voices" to be celebrated across Maryland during the 250th anniversary of American independence. The poster highlights how we've come to know these voices by the way they were

carried and amplified through Press, Print, and People. Press being journalism and its role in the American Revolution, highlighted using the Death's Head print type -- used to signify the Stamp Act from the Jonas and Anne Green collection. Print being the published biography of Josiah Henson's and how it inspired the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin and how both printed works changed discourse about slavery. People being used to highlight traditional knowledge spread through oral histories and how those stories relate to the lasting effects of colonialism and how indigenous families persisted. Stories like those passed down to Rico Newman, an elder of the Choptico Band of the Piscataway Conoy tribe, whose family history was instrumental in narrowing down the location of the Choptico Town archaeological site, which was identified a little over a decade ago.

Want to take part in uncovering the local stories of revolution, resilience, and innovation that shape Maryland?

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Maryland Revolutionaries: Jonas and Anne Catharine Green

Rebecca Morehouse | Curator of State Collections
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory



Figure 1: MAC Lab intern, Ben Prunty, rehousing lead printer's type from the Green Printshop site.

In 2024, Governor Wes Moore issued an Executive Order establishing the Maryland 250 Commission, which was tasked with promoting Maryland's contributions to American history. This commission also offered various grant programs to support local, regional, and municipal efforts in commemorating America's 250th. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) received one of these grants for the project "Revolutionary Maryland: Freedom of the Press Then and Now." A portion of this grant is funding efforts to rehouse, conserve, and curate one of Maryland's most significant archaeological collections, the Jonas and Anne Catharine Green House and Printshop (Figure 1).

The Jonas and Anne Catharine Green House (Figure 2) was the subject of four Archaeology in Annapolis (AIA) field seasons from 1983 to 1986. These investigations, led by the University of Maryland Department of Anthropology, discovered the location of the detached printshop in the backyard of the house, from which thousands of pieces

of lead printer's type were recovered. One piece of type included a Death's Head that is strikingly similar to actual font that appeared in copies of The Maryland Gazette, the colonial paper published by the Green family (Figure 3). The archaeological collection from these excavations consists of over 200,000 artifacts, 11,000 of which are lead printer's type. Having been in the care of Historic Annapolis for many years, this collection has been transferred to MHT and is now curated at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab).

Jonas Green was born in 1712 in Boston into a long line of New England printers. In 1735, he moved to Philadelphia, where he spent three years as a journeyman with notable printers Benjamin Franklin and Andrew Bradford. Jonas Green married Anne Catharine Hoof in the spring of 1738. The couple moved to Annapolis to fill the need for a government printer shortly thereafter.

When the Greens arrived in Annapolis, they set up a printing business and Jonas became the printer and editor of The Maryland Gazette in



Figure 2: The Jonas and Anne Catharine Green House in Annapolis.



Figure 3: Death's Head printer's type recovered from the Green Printshop site. Image courtesy of Historic Annapolis..

1745. Both Jonas and Anne Catharine Green were supporters of the fight for independence and did not shy away from using their newspaper as a platform for political debate. Evidence of this exists in surviving issues of The Maryland Gazette, which feature exchanges between important revolutionary figures such as Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Daniel Dulany on the imposition of tobacco fees, as well as Green's use of a Death's Head type he created to oppose the British-imposed Stamp Act of 1765. In addition to incorporating the Death's Head imagery in the paper's printed protests against the British government, Jonas Green authored several pieces attacking other colonial policies in North America.

After his death in 1767, Anne Catharine assumed the day-to-day operations of The Maryland Gazette and became the paper's official editor. She took over the printshop, becoming one of the first woman publishers in the American colonies, providing uninterrupted publication of the only newspaper in Annapolis at the time. Historical research on the Green family's printing business found that many items that had formerly been in the printshop, including paper, various printing tools, and a book binding press, had been moved into the house after Jonas' death. Moving the

printing business into the house allowed Anne Catharine to continue publishing while still managing the household and caring for her six children. This was a bold move that challenged a woman's expected domestic role in colonial America.

The grant-funded work on the Green Family Printshop collection will ensure that its extraordinary research potential, which contains the largest collection of lead printer's type ever recovered archaeologically in the United States, is preserved and made available for future generations. Combined with Anne Catharine Green's 1775 probate inventory and other primary source information, this collection can provide a better understanding of the role of the press in Colonial America. It is also a remarkable story of a woman who took on the challenging role of both newspaper editor and single mother following her husband's death. The Maryland Gazette continued to be printed by Jonas and Anne Catharine's descendants until 1839.



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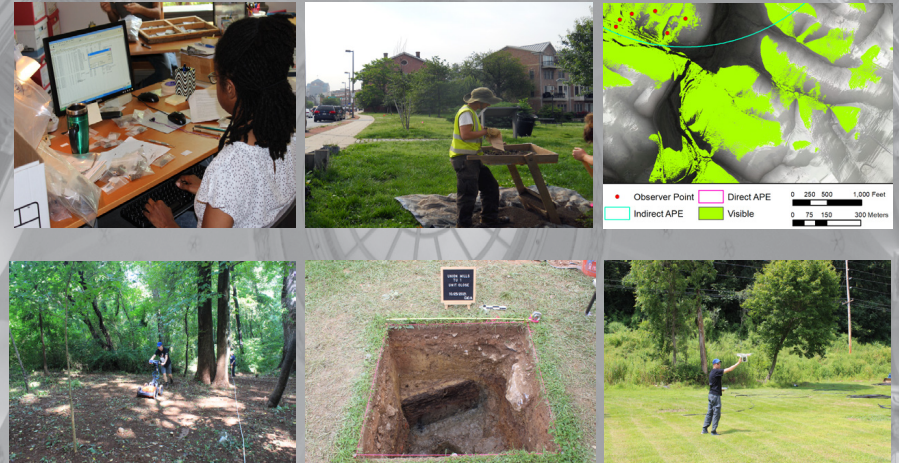


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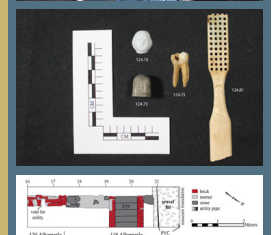
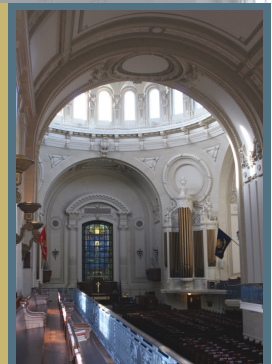
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"I'll Use My Freedom Well": Josiah Henson and Slavery's Contradictions

Cassandra Michaud | Archaeologist | Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC

I was born June 15th, 1789, in Charles county, Maryland, on a farm belonging to Mr. Francis Newman, about a mile from Port Tobacco.

Born into enslavement in Maryland at the nation's founding, Reverend Josiah Henson embodied the opposition between American ideals of liberty and the lived reality of those enslaved. Rooted in economic gains for those in control, slavery was a foundational element of post-colonial America, and it would take almost 90 years and another war to formally abolish.

Josiah Henson's life is rife with experiences common to thousands of enslaved who remain nameless and whose stories are lost to history. Through ingenuity, determination, and faith, he achieved freedom, and shared his story with the world, shining a bright light on the reality that so many silently endured. For Josiah Henson, freedom was not an abstract ideal, but a condition shaped by daily constraints, limited choices, and moments of agency within the system of enslavement.

As a young child, he suffered a fate most feared among the enslaved – his family was torn apart and he was sold to Adam Robb of Rockville, in the newly formed Montgomery County. Traded for the price of horseshoeing to Isaac Riley, who owned property just outside of town, Henson lived there for another two decades, growing up in the plantation system, eventually taking on the role of Riley's overseer, managing hundreds of acres of agricultural fields and orchards, carrying crops to market, and protecting the larger enslaved community as best he could. After years of forced labor and increasing responsibility on the Riley plantation, Henson was denied the freedom he had been promised, a betrayal that ultimately led him to escape with his family to Canada in 1830. There he co-founds the Dawn Settlement with

other Freedom Seekers and publishes his autobiography in 1849. In doing so Henson asserted control over his own story. His and other slave narratives influenced Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, centering national debates over slavery in lived experience. Many who read the novel refused to believe it was based on real events; Stowe publishes *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*—detailing her sources and catalyzing discussions about true equality and liberty for all.

Josiah Henson's autobiography preserves a rare first-person account of that struggle, while archaeological research at the Riley property anchors his words in the material realities of life on a plantation. While we don't know the names of all those Riley enslaved, their hands were behind most tasks needed to run the farm. They cooked and served the meals, smoked and cured the meat, cared for the horses and other livestock, made and mended clothes, harvested and sold the crops. Today, the core of Riley's property is maintained as the Josiah Henson Museum and Park, dedicated to sharing his story and slavery in Montgomery County, where as many as 40% of the population was enslaved prior to the Civil War. An introductory exhibit imagines the landscape Reverend Henson knew based on archaeology, documentary research, and his own words (Figure 1).

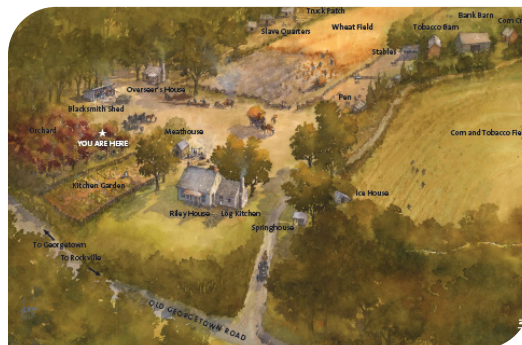


Figure 1 - The Riley plantation imagined, ca. 1815 (Montgomery Parks)



Figure 2 - Straight pins and thimble from the site. (JPPM)

One rich archaeological feature on the site offers a window into the many ways Josiah and the other enslaved contributed to daily life around 1815 (Figures 2-5). Debris from repeated kitchen hearth sweepings—including household items and over 17,000 fish and small animal remains—shows that residents supplemented the farm animals and orchards with fishing and hunting. Pork and chicken are the primary livestock in the assemblage, with butchery patterns indicating on-site processing, while the presence of less typical bird species – swan, hawk, crow – suggests flexible food practices. Artifacts related to food preparation and clothing such as straight pins, a thimble, dish and glass fragments are the physical traces of the enslaved's handiwork at the site. The presence of decorative horse tack called a bridle boss points to roles that required skill and trust, underscoring how enslaved individuals like Josiah Henson occupied



Figure 4 - Ceramic recovered during feature excavation.



Figure 3 - Embossed horse hardware recovered from the site (JPPM)

positions of responsibility without the freedom that such work might otherwise allow.

Artifacts from the later periods of Riley's ownership are more mundane and indicate a collapse of Riley's wealth as he loses slaves and needs to hire laborers. Josiah Henson returns to the plantation in 1878 and his remark that "The once great plantation is now but a wilderness; the most desolate, demoralised place one can imagine" shows that the economics of slavery were the foundation of Riley's success, and the result when those who made it great were finally free to work for themselves. Josiah Henson's life – and the many he represented – was defined by the contradictions inherent in slavery and today his legacy speaks to an essential part of Maryland's history.



Figure 5 - Sample of animal remains. (Montgomery Parks)



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Validation through Oral History and Archaeology at the Choptico Town

Rico Newman with contributions from Scott Strickland

Preface

The following is a retelling of just a small piece of the family history of Rico Newman, an elder of the Choptico Band of the Piscataway-Conoy tribe. While it is a story passed down from generation to generation in his family, it had only been shared with archaeologists a little over a decade ago. When archaeologists from St. Mary's College of Maryland worked with tribal partners and collaborators on a Maryland Historical Trust-funded Piscataway Landscapes survey project, Mr. Newman donated his time to lobby in support of the project and provide critical information regarding the location of the circa 1650 Choptico Reservation and Town.

His family's memory of the Choptico Reservation, which is not mentioned in official records after 1712, persisted by word of mouth for generations. While common local history had always placed the reservation on the aptly-named "Indiantown Farm," the precise location of the town within that nearly 900-acre parcel was unknown.

Family History

Read below, in Mr. Newman's own words, about how fragments of that long ago history were passed down among indigenous families who, while erased from colonial and later archives, never left the land of their ancestors.

Forty-nine years ago, Greta Joy, my aunt and the youngest daughter of L.G. Joy and Anna L. Wilson, had the presence of mind to interview her 97-year-old mother about our family's past. Greta's interest in our history was piqued while watching the 1977 television series "Roots," based on the book by Alex Haley. Is it a coincidence Greta was 49 at the time she saw "Roots"?

Fortunately, Greta recorded these interview sessions. These conversations proved priceless, providing our family with a connection to an era that might otherwise have been forgotten. Twenty-five years ago, these tapes were played for several family members who were elated to hear the oral histories passed down through generations.

Recording oral history can powerfully validate historical events. In this case, my grandmother recalled her own grandmother describing the details of being required to leave their home on the Choptico Reservation for a new home. Their former property was known as "Widow's Purchase."

The land where my grandmother's parents, siblings, and prior generations lived for several years after was on what is now Mt. Victoria was titled "Widow's Dower." The successive naming of these locations with the word "Widow" proved prophetic and was key to affirming the historical location of the former reservation known as "Choptico Town" (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Location of Widow's Purchase and Widow's Dower tracts.

Validation

Armed with the knowledge of Mr. Newman's family history of the reservation, archaeologists were able to narrow their search. The tract Widow's Purchase was patented to Philip Key (a relative of Francis Scott Key) in 1796, and was adjacent to a larger tract called Bond's Rest. Bond's Rest was created out of several smaller tracts owned by Zachariah Bond in 1768, including 244 acres south of Widow's Purchase called Indian Town.

The team homed in on a previously recorded shell midden site, 18ST153, located within the 244-acre Indian Town tract. The site had first been identified by Steve Wilke and Gail Thompson as part of a non-systematic shoreline survey that they had to cut short. Unfortunately for these archaeologists, they had to cut their survey short, stating "We left at gunpoint. The End." They named the site "Gun Lady."

In early 2014, the team of archaeologists from St. Mary's College of Maryland revisited 18ST153 (with permission from the current property owner!). While not directly on the "Widow's Purchase" tract from Mr. Newman's family history, the site is located in the nearest waterfront field adjacent to it. Sure enough, the information from Mr. Newman and the strategy to revisit the previously recorded shell midden site was fruitful. A mix of Late Woodland and Contact-period artifacts dating to the occupation of the Choptico Reservation were confirmed – copper beads, indigenous and imported European ceramics, and locally-made red clay and imported white clay tobacco pipes were the telltale signs (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Excavations at 18ST153. Left: Shovel testing the site. Right: Townsend incised ceramics and copper bead (top row), European ceramics (middle row), and red and white clay tobacco pipe bowl fragments (bottom row).

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“I have not yet seen landscape more pleasant than this part of the Susquehanna”: Tracking the French and Continental Armies through Maryland

Stephanie Soder, M.A. | Research Archaeologist | Maryland Historical Trust

When people think about the archaeology of the American Revolution, their minds often go straight to battlefields. Often outnumbered with little supplies, colonial militia fought hard against enormous odds to gain independence from British rule, and well-preserved battlefields help relay these stories to the public. While these do indeed deserve attention, much more information about the lives of soldiers and the logistics of battle can be learned from cultural resources that lay outside the battlefield; taverns, civilian homes, and encampment sites, to name only a few, are the types of resources that can help flesh out the stories of war.

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is currently studying similar cultural resources under a grant provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program. The grant focuses on the march of the combined forces of the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington and the French *Expédition Particulière* under the command of Lieutenant General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur Comte de Rochambeau. MHT archaeologists are specifically focusing on sites in Harford and Cecil Counties, as these areas are less likely to have been impacted by development. In 1781, many troops embarked from Elk Landing, Cecil County to make their way south to Yorktown on ships. The remainder broke into two columns to march south: infantry crossed on the ferry from Rodgers Tavern (Perryville) to Havre de Grace, while

artillery and baggage accompanied by Lauzan's Legion forded the Susquehanna River north at Bald Friar. These columns then converged in Bushtown (Abingdon) to continue south. This split resulted in “waves” of troops camping at the same campsite spread over several days, rather than staying as large groups. Less is recorded about the victorious march north, though they camped close to where they had stayed previously.

Researchers at MHT began these investigations by georectifying maps created by French engineers of encampment sites utilized during the marches. Previous studies have shown that these maps, created after the war by French cartographer Jean-Baptiste Berthier, are remarkably accurate and have helped pinpoint exact locations of the French encampment sites in modern day contexts.

Based on the results of georectification, several sites were chosen for further evaluation. Three areas in Elkton and one near Abingdon appeared to be the locations of encampment sites with no or limited development. In addition to these mapped areas, other locations were chosen for further study based on their description in primary documents like journals: the Deer Creek Friends Meeting House and a site in Churchville, both in Harford County, and Cummings Tavern in Cecil County.

Using varying combinations of magnetic susceptibility survey, gradiometer survey, ground penetrating radar, and metal



Figure 1. Georectified image of Bushtown map over modern-day Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland (Courtesy of MHT 2023)

detecting, MHT surveyed these seven sites with the help of 37 individual volunteers who contributed approximately 464 working hours to the efforts. Of these seven sites, two have been identified for further study – the Bushtown encampment site in Harford County and the Elk Landing site in Cecil County.

In Bushtown, troops set up encampments on the way down to Yorktown and on the march back north (Figure 1). Landowners have reported that metal detectorists have found Revolutionary War artifacts in the fields for years. The data collected by MHT archaeologists was incredibly interesting; gradiometer and magnetic susceptibility data showed areas with high metallic signatures in an area believed to be part of the Bush Furnace, which was active during the Revolutionary War. Additionally, ground penetrating radar identified at least four anomalies that share similar attributes: each described as a trench-like feature, approximately two meters long and one meter deep that starts just under the plowzone. These may be indicative of

a “sink”, or latrine for the camps, which excavation will further investigate.

Elk Landing was the site of longer encampment by troops, as well as a variety of other activities (Figure 2). Both the British and American armies moved soldiers via ship by Elk Landing over the course of the entire war, and Elk Landing saw further action during the War of 1812. Magnetic susceptibility, gradiometer, and ground penetrating radar survey were all conducted by MHT around Elk Landing. While the area nearest the Elk River appears to have been disturbed, GPR revealed an interesting group of anomalies away from the water: rectangular anomalies, approximately 1 meter wide and 50 cm deep, arranged in a semi-circle approximately 15 meters in diameter. The gradiometer results also showed a metallic signature near the western edge of this semi-circle. It is unclear from the remote sensing data what these anomalies may be, but excavations can determine if they are cultural features, and if so, their age and function.



Figure 2. Ground penetrating radar survey at Elk Landing, Cecil County, Maryland (Courtesy of MHT 2024)

MHT would like to excavate at these sites this year, which will include a large public outreach component and the ability for volunteers to work on site. It is the hope that this work can shed light on previously unknown or understudied resources, as well as provide details of the day-to-day lives of those who fought for American independence.

Note: This project was developed with the assistance of a grant from the National Park Service, as authorized under the American Battlefield Protection Program (54 USC 308101 – 308105). Any findings, opinions, or recommendations expressed in this paper are those of the author(s) and should not be interpreted to constitute the endorsement, policies, or views of the National Park Service, the American Battlefield Protection Program, or any other agency of the United States Government.



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"I send you two fine boats": Stephen Steward's Shipyard

Katie Gill, M.A., RPA | Heritage Programs Manager & Digital Assets Manager
Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area

On March 31st of 1781, in the midst of the American Revolution, British soldiers from two ships named the Monk and the Hope came up the West River, South of Annapolis, with the intent of destroying Stephen Steward's Shipyard. The Maryland Gazette reports the burning a few days later, noting that British troops "... gloriously completed the destruction of everything valuable to Mr. Steward.....The loss is not yet to be estimated; every hour they discover their [Steward's] loss greater." Why bother burning it at all? This is one of the few recorded confrontations with the British during the American Revolution in the area.

Stephen Steward owned this shipyard beginning in the 1750s. Ships at his yard were constructed by a dedicated crew of tradesmen, servants, enslaved men and women, and convict servants. Holding prominent connections to American Revolutionary Maryland, Steward's Shipyard designed, constructed, repaired, and stored ships for the cause. Up until the early 1990s the existence of this shipyard was largely unknown to the public. The commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence encourages us to revisit the archaeological collections from sites like this one, integral to early nationhood building but perhaps not as well known as other stories.

Of the many people who worked at the shipyard there are a few we know more details about from ads linked to the property. One of these is Harry, enslaved at the shipyard, who was about 24 years old when he ran away in June of 1779 with a woman named Cass. According to the advertisement Steward submitted to the Maryland Gazette, they

may have been headed to Philadelphia. It is unknown if they evaded capture and succeeded in reaching Philadelphia gaining their freedom. Regardless, Harry was likely able to use the geographic knowledge he gained traveling with Steward in the plans to secure his own and Cass's freedom. Other ads from around the same time note small ships utilized by freedom seekers using their knowledge of sailing and local waterways to escape.

We know the British attacked this shipyard, burning at least part of it to the ground in 1781. Despite its attempted destruction, Steward's Shipyard continued to maintain an active role in ship construction and maintenance throughout the American Revolution, falling into obscurity after the death of its owner. That is until, "one day, archaeologists...just crawled out of the creek and said that he had found a shipyard" recounted former property owner Dean Hall. The archaeologists who "just crawled out of the creek" were part of the Maryland Maritime Archeological Program (MMAAP) tasked with surveying Maryland's waterways to evaluate, identify, and record potentially significant archaeology sites at risk of erosion. This discovery prompted oral histories, archival research, and terrestrial and underwater archaeological investigations. The 1993 Maryland Historical Trust Field Session in Archaeology focused on the Steward Shipyard site, including professional archaeologists, students, and volunteers from the general public all contributing to this one of a kind excavation. So, how much of it remains now after 200-some years? Ultimately, these excavations discovered domestic features, shipyard work related features and two

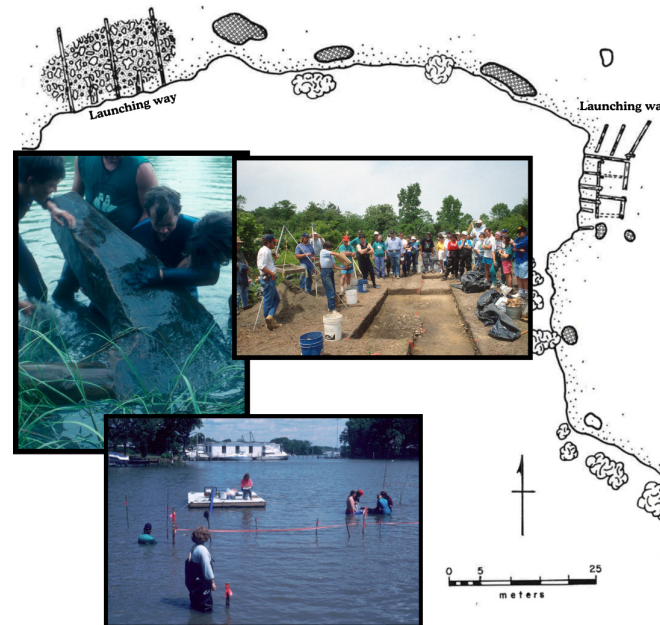


Figure 1 Steward's Shipyard Collage.

Background: the launching ways site plan map (Bruce Thompson 1993)

Top left photo: the discovery of the dogshore

Top right photo: terrestrial excavation at the site in 1993

Bottom photo: Underwater investigations at the site in the early 90s

launching ways (Figure 1). These launching ways were used to launch ships sideways into the West River, bridging the gap between working on land and launching ships into the water.

In January of 1776, Steven Steward traveled to Philadelphia, comparing notes on how their defences could be used in Annapolis, Maryland. This trip prompted the design and ordering of seven galleys to be built for the state Navy, the work was divided between multiple shipyards, including Steward's. Other records from the period describe the many trips and trade agreements Steward had across the state and the Caribbean securing needed materials to complete or repair ships. According to documentary records, one of the galleys constructed by Steward named the Conqueror, operated in the Chesapeake Bay throughout its service with the Maryland Council of Safety before it was sold at the end of the war. Notably, archaeologists recovered a large wooden dogshore, which would have been used to aid in temporarily holding a ship

in place before launching into the water. Other materials from the excavations illustrate the ties with other Maryland industries at the time; several pig iron bars, likely used as ship ballast, were recovered. One of these has the text "LEGH", linking them to the Legh Foundry, in Carroll County, Maryland (Figure 2). *cont.*



Figure 2 "LEGH" Cast Iron (Pig Iron) Drawing recovered from Steward's Shipyard site (1994 Lynch, Davidson, & Davidson) and photograph of the same artifact before conservation

**"I send you two fine boats":
Stephen Steward's Shipyard**



Figure 3 QR code for Steward's Shipyard StoryMap, "I send you two fine boats"

In a 1777 letter to the Maryland Council of Safety in Annapolis Steward wrote, "I send you two fine Boats to carry the soldiers over the Bay". Sites like this one are integral to understanding early nationhood and Maryland's important involvement in this history. Steward's Shipyard and its people played an important role in our state's revolutionary history, a story that may have been left largely untold if it were not for the archaeological investigations that have taken place there and are continuing to be researched. To learn more, visit this storymap via the QR code (Figure 3)



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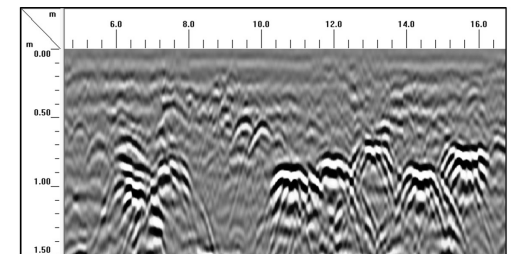
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“Convenient houses and fine springs of water”: St Mary’s City in the Late 18th Century

Ruth M. Mitchell | Manager of Archaeological Services | Historic St. Mary’s City

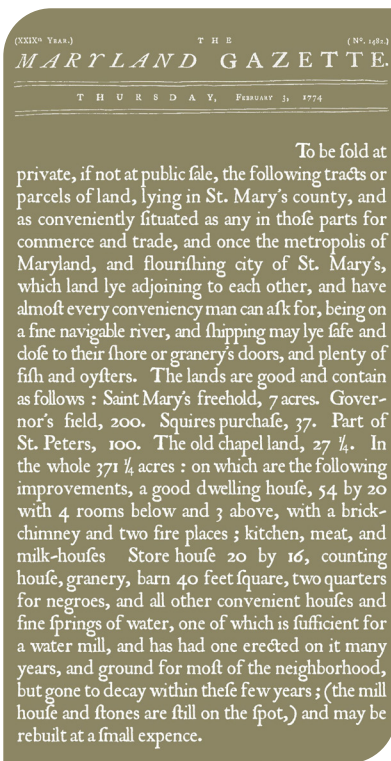


Figure 1 Maryland Gazette Advertisement
(February 3, 1774)

July 14, 1776, and the months that followed were undoubtedly unforgettable for the people of St. Mary’s County, Maryland. On this day in mid-July Lord Dunmore and his fleet of over 70 vessels were first observed “lying off between St. Mary’s River and Point Look Out” by Alexander Somerville in his report to the Council of Safety. They continued up the St. Mary’s River, covering roughly 8 nautical miles before reaching St. George Island. The following months saw the British focusing their efforts on St. George Island in search of fresh water and provisions.

During this time period, the surrounding landscape of St. Mary’s County was characterized by a mix of small family farms and large rural plantations, forming an agricultural economy that shaped the region’s social and economic structure. Crop diversification was well underway, with corn and wheat supplementing tobacco. The wealthier estates owned land, had enslaved individuals, and were increasing craft production such as blacksmithing. By the second half of the 18th century the region was significantly altered by the large increase of enslaved individuals. While the enslaved population comprised approximately 12 percent of the total population in 1720, it had grown dramatically to nearly 40 percent by 1774, reflecting the increasing reliance on enslaved labor during this period.

Lord Dunmore’s fleet raided properties along the St. Mary’s River, including the Jesuit plantation in St. Inigoes, located just south of St. Mary’s City. Raids continued well after the fleet left St. George Island, and large plantations continued to be targeted until 1783. The raids were often violent and destructive, including actions such as the British forces burning the houses, fields, and woods on their departure from St. George Island.

What was happening in St. Mary’s City during the American Revolution? There are no surviving accounts of raids occurring on the property. Two years prior to the 1776 events, over 700 acres of St. Mary’s City land had been purchased by John Mackall, who left Calvert County to live on the property he purchased from William Hicks. A Maryland Gazette ad from February 1774 describes St. Mary’s City as “once the metropolis of Maryland,” referring

to its role as the colony’s original capital before the capital was moved to Annapolis in 1695. Figure 1 depicts this ad which provides a detailed description of the structures that stood at St. Mary’s City during the late 18th century, including:

“... a good dwelling house...; kitchen, meat, and milk-houses. Store house... counting house, granary, barn, two quarters for negroes, and all other convenient houses and fine springs of water...”

While this advertisement and a few other historical documents survive that provide a glimpse into the landscape during the second half of the 18th century, we often rely on archaeological evidence to help aid in our understanding of the time period. One of the buildings described in the advertisement was recently found, and evidence suggests it may have been a 16-foot by 24-foot storehouse. Figure 2 depicts a brick lined cellar that was excavated on the east end of the building. This was likely a wooden structure underpinned by a narrow brick footer, with a brick hearth on the west end. All of the bricks related to this building were recycled from an earlier building that likely dated to the 17th-century occupation of the town. In St. Mary’s City 17th and 18th-century sites are often found on the same parcels of land due to the proximity of freshwater springs, which are abundant throughout the landscape.

This structure was located near a natural spring, where numerous well-preserved artifacts were recovered from a filled-in ravine. Large sherds of pottery were recovered, including fragments of white salt glaze stoneware that date from ca. 1720-1780 (Figure 3). In addition to ceramics, bottle

“Convenient houses and fine springs of water”: St Mary’s City in the Late 18th Century



Figure 2 Brick Cellar of an 18th-century Building
from the Hicks-Mackall Plantation

glass, and tobacco pipes, a significant amount of animal bone was recovered from the ravine. This data provides a better understanding of diet and consumer patterns during this time period, information that is sparse in the surviving written documents.

John Mackall’s landholdings in St. Mary’s City grew to a considerably large plantation by the time of his death in 1813. As the enslaved population increased, archaeological data suggests that a significant reorganization of the landscape occurred. A granary that had been built by William Hick’s in 1758 became the location that centers the agricultural landscape. Enslaved individuals were housed

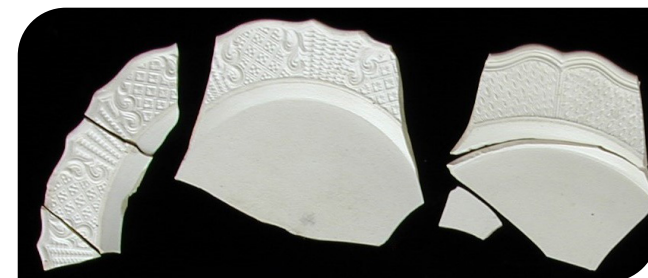


Figure 3 White Salt Glaze Stoneware, Decorated Plates

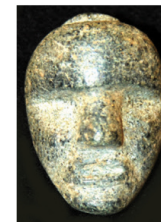
**“Convenient houses and fine springs of water”:
St Mary’s City in the Late 18th Century**

in multiple structures dispersed across the property rather than tightly clustered in a single location.

Significant impacts occurred in St. Mary’s City from the War of 1812. Nineteen enslaved individuals self-emancipated to the British. This occurred around the same time that the Mackall family had a series of deaths, with John Mackall Jr. dying soon after his father. The St. Mary’s City lands are then inherited by John Jr.’s daughter Margaret, who in turn died childless in 1816. Her husband, James Mackall Brome, inherited the property and when he died in 1823 his second wife was left with three young children. One of those children, Dr. John Mackall Brome significantly reorganized the landscape in 1840.

Vestiges of the 18th-century landscape endure today. The 1758 granary had to be dismantled due to its condition, but a large barn from

1785 still stands and is an exhibit known as the Mackall Barn Exhibit. While the 1774 advertisement refers to ten different buildings, their precise locations remain undocumented (except for the granary). Several recent projects have aided our understanding of where a few of those buildings once stood. Archaeological evidence provides the most reliable means of identifying and interpreting the placement of these structures on the landscape since most of them are no longer standing. The “convenient houses and fine springs of water” that Mackall purchased in 1774 have been the subject of recent archaeological investigations that have shed new light on the landscape. The archaeological record from these sites has substantially enhanced our understanding of the social, economic, and architectural aspects of life during the late 18th century and into the early 19th century in St. Mary’s City.



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What the Land Remembers: Many Voices from North Point's Past

Katherine Sterner and Ryun Papson | Towson University

Since 2024, the Baltimore Community Archaeology Lab (BCAL) at Towson University has been conducting investigations at three archaeological sites in North Point State Park (Figure 1). This ongoing project demonstrates the variety of meanings a place can have for different people, and the importance of understanding the significance of places through hearing many voices.

People have been living on North Point, also known as Patapsco Neck, in what is now Edgemere, Maryland since ca. 3500 BC, but North Point is best known for its connection with the Battle of North Point in the War of 1812. The Battle of North Point was fought on September 12, 1814, approximately 5 miles north of the area where BCAL excavations

have been undertaken. The battle was fought between General John Stricker's Maryland Militia and a British force led by Major-General Robert Ross. Although the Americans were driven from the field, they were able to do so in good order having inflicted significant casualties on the British, killing Ross and demoralizing the troops under his command. This setback prompted Colonel Arthur Brooke to delay the British advance against Baltimore, giving to the Americans valuable time to properly prepare for the defense of the city.

The component of the Battle of North Point closest to the area we have been working is the landing point of Major-General Ross, approximately one mile to the southwest, and the Todd house (18BA370), approximately a quarter mile to the southwest. The Todd property, now known as Todd's Inheritance was occupied by Bernard Todd, his wife Mary Green Todd, their six children, and seventeen enslaved people. In 1813, Major General Samuel Smith, appointed to command the militia in defense of Baltimore, ordered Colonel William McDonald to post troops on the neck of North Point to prevent the encroachment of the British squadron under Admiral George Cockburn, who had been raiding and burning small towns up and down the Chesapeake Bay for several months. McDonald established his headquarters at the Todd house. Bernard Todd, who was serving in the militia as a private in Captain Stansbury's company of the 6th Cavalry Regiment, was often posted as a look-out in his own home. Once Major-General Ross landed on North Point, the Todd house was burned to the ground because of its use by the American military. The Todd house was rebuilt in 1816, relatively close to its original location.



Figure 1. Towson University student Maggie Fahey and a volunteer excavate a unit in a shell midden in site 18BA364 at North Point State Park (photo credit: Alex Wright).



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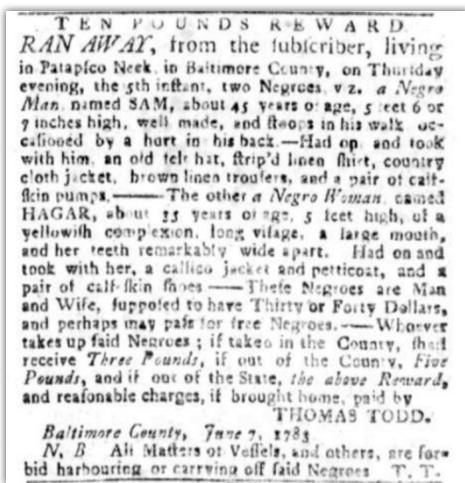


Figure 2. Run Away Advertisement posted by Thomas Todd V in the Maryland Journal, and the Baltimore Advertiser, June 7, 1783. Maryland State Archives. Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, "Runaway Ads," Accessed February 19, 2026. <https://slavery2.msa.maryland.gov/pages/Search.aspx>.

The Todd family has a long history on North Point. On August 17, 1664, Thomas Todd of Gloucester County, Virginia purchased three properties from Thomas Powell, "Roade River" (later known as "Old Road"), "Richardson", and "Powell's Point", amounting to 687.5 acres. This was the first of many land acquisitions in Maryland by the Todds, whose holdings on North Point would eventually total over 1,000 acres. By the time the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, the property was owned by Thomas Todd V. The Federal Direct Tax Assessment in 1798 indicates that Captain William Todd was the occupant of the house and 30 enslaved people ranging in age from 12 to 50 lived and worked on the property (Figure 2). Thomas Todd V signed the Oath of Allegiance in 1778, an oath swearing allegiance to the state of Maryland and denying allegiance and obedience to Great Britain. As enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 1777, all voters were required to take the oath no later than March 1, 1778. Over the course of

the Revolutionary War, life continued much as usual on the tobacco plantation owned by the Todds. For an enslaved couple named Sam and Hagar, that meant fleeing the Todd plantation in 1783.

Fifty-seven years prior to Thomas Todd's 1665 arrival in Baltimore County, Captain John Smith stopped at Old Road Bay on June 12 and again on June 14, 1608. Smith did not note any Indigenous people living on what would come to be called North Point, although a southerly wind and a strong northward tidal current may have caused Captain Smith to keep moving along the western shore rather than exploring it thoroughly. Two years of archaeological investigations at North Point State Park indicate that perhaps only a couple hundred years or fewer before Captain Smith arrived there was a robust Indigenous presence on North Point.

Interpreted with the input of representatives of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and Pocomoke Indian Nation, archaeological sites 18BA362, 18BA364, and 18BA631 appear to represent summer gathering places for related bands. The three sites are located on slightly elevated landforms along the eastern shore of Shallow Creek, an area that has been heavily plowed by the Todds, who owned the land until 1975. The land passed briefly to the Cook family in 1975 before transferring to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 1999. Throughout that time, the land remaining under cultivation, contributing to substantial erosion of the three Middle and Late Woodland (ca. AD 50-1600) encampments on the point. Archaeological investigations to date indicate that the Indigenous people living at these sites were there engaging in a pattern of seasonal congregation, gathering for oyster harvesting and reaffirming social bonds between groups. While there, they engaged in stone tool production and retooling, relying primarily on



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local materials, with some evidence for trade in non-local rhyolite, jasper, and chert. Future archaeological investigations will help clarify whether they were producing pottery at these sites or just bringing it with them, and whether they relied entirely on wild plants for vegetable foods or if cultigens accounted for a significant portion of their diet.

What is clear from investigations to date is the variety of ways people have engaged with the land at North Point. While the most common story told about the area is that of the Battle of North Point and the burning of the Todd house, over the last 250 years and more, many other people have been connected to the land. From British soldiers, to families enslaved by the Todds, to Indigenous Americans, the story of North Point can only be told with the inclusion of many voices.

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Commemorating Shared History: The Maryland Historical Marker Program

David S. Hanley, M.A., RPA | Senior Archaeologist | Office of Cultural Resources
Maryland Department of Transportation

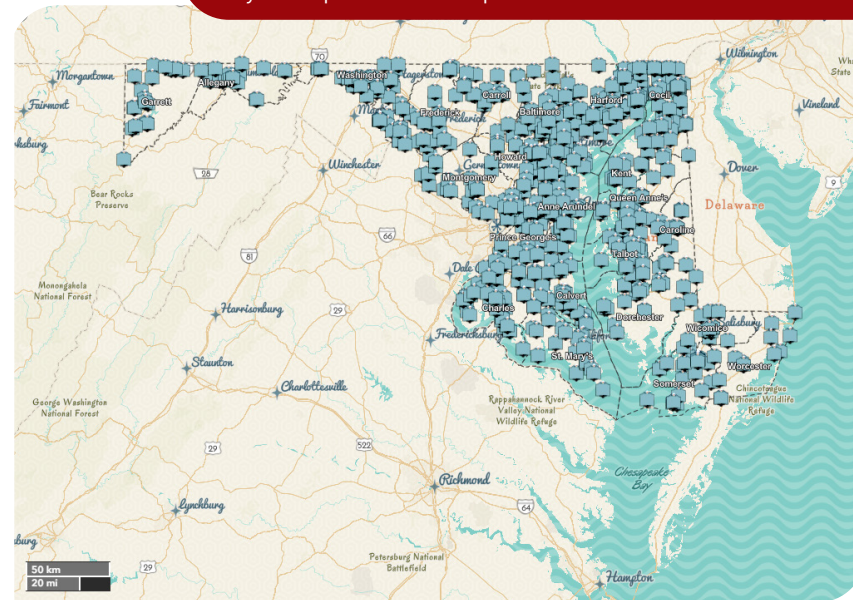


Figure 1. MDOT Interactive Historical Marker Database Map.

Since the early 1930s, the state of Maryland has installed over 800 historical markers along state roads (Figure 1). The popularity of the automobile, along with a renewed interest in history during the early 20th century, stimulated state agencies to form partnerships to fund a historical marker program. In 1932, the first major marker effort was undertaken in conjunction with the Daughters of the American Revolution to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. Today, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), in partnership with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), reviews marker applications while the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) funds, installs, and maintains the markers along state roads and property. Currently, MDOT is working with different ethnic commissions and tribal leaders to correct factual errors and insensitive

language on some of Maryland's older roadside markers.

Historical markers across Maryland are installed to highlight people, places, and events with significant state history. Historical markers must commemorate at least one of the following: events that have contributed to broad patterns of history, a person or group of people who were significant to Maryland's past, built resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a work of a master, or possesses high artistic value, resources that have yielded information important to the understanding of Maryland history (i.e. archaeological sites), or traditionally disenfranchised individuals or communities with a history that can be tied to Maryland significant events or people.

Commemorating Shared History: The Maryland Historical Marker Program

Across Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, multiple roadside markers detail important sites linked to the American Revolution. Many of these markers detail the movements of George Washington. The Widow Ramsey's Tavern and Rawling's Tavern, installed in 1934 and 1935 respectively, commemorate taverns along where George Washington stopped to have breakfast before taking command of the Revolutionary forces. Some markers also discuss military movements, such as Lafayette's Encampment (installed 1989) that describes Marquis de Lafayette's troops' path through Annapolis to the decisive Battle of Yorktown in 1781. In Crownsville, the Belvoir historical marker (installed 1967) notes that Rochambeau encamped there as the troops marched on to Annapolis and eventually to Yorktown.

Many of Maryland's markers highlight individuals making a significant impact to not only Maryland, but our nation. Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806), a free-born Black man from present-day Baltimore County, is a perfect example (installed 1954). Banneker was a member of the District of Columbia survey team while also being a self-educated astronomer, mathematician, and naturalist who published calculated almanacs between 1792 and 1797.

Some of Maryland's notable impacts on the nation involve transportation infrastructure, especially railways. The Mount Savage Iron Works marker in Allegany County, installed in 1964, is where the first iron rails were manufactured within the United States. These rails contributed to the passenger and freight rail lines that run throughout the state and connect Maryland to economic opportunities.



Figure 2. Pocomoke Nation Tribal Homelands Marker Unveiling Event.



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Maryland archaeologists have been shifting the way we see our past. In 2025, MDOT unveiled the Harriet Tubman Birthplace marker in Woolford, Dorchester County. The recent archaeological investigations at Harriet Tubman's birthplace added to our knowledge of her life. With this new information, MDOT consulted with Tubman relatives to draft the message historical marker. In addition, a second Tubman marker was installed in front of the Brodess Farm in Bucktown, Dorchester County in 2025. This sign replaced an old marker that had inaccurate facts about how many people Tubman led to freedom.

MDOT collaborated with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs to ensure the legacy and impact of Indigenous People is accurately shared with the traveling public. This involves consultation with tribal leaders to ensure their history is told in their words. In November 2025, MDOT and the Pocomoke Indian Nation hosted an unveiling event for

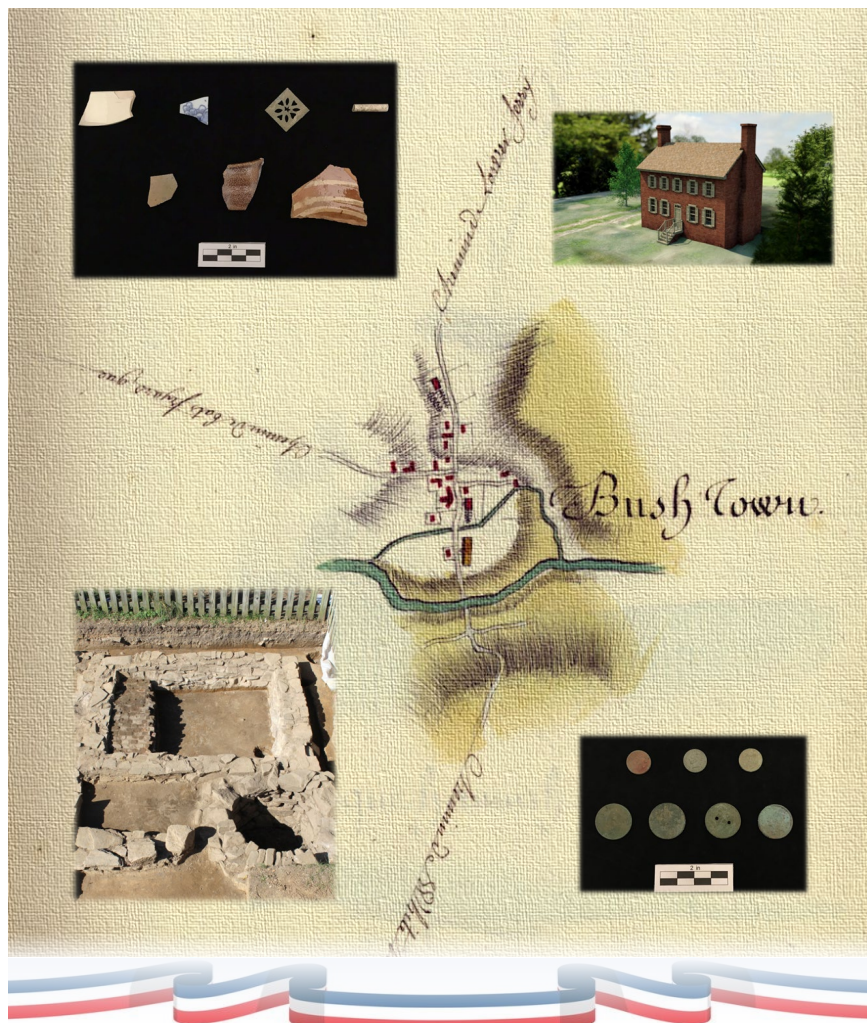
the Pocomoke Tribal Homelands marker in Worcester County (Figure 2). This marker highlights the influence of the Pocomoke Nation throughout the Delmarva Peninsula and discusses their relationship with the Maryland colony in the form of treaties spanning from 1678 to 1742. The event brought together MDOT and multiple tribal councils to celebrate Maryland's Indigenous history.

The almost 100-year history of Maryland's Historical Marker Program has succeeded in commemorating and properly preserving the significant people, places, and events that have left a lasting impact on both the state and the nation. By incorporating new archaeological information and new historical research, MDOT and MHT can better preserve this shared history as well as ensure previous markers are updated to properly commemorate the significant person, place, or event the marker commemorates.



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Teagues Point Redux: Where are the Posts?

Matthew D. McKnight | Chief Archaeologist, Maryland Historical Trust



Aerial Drone Imagery from 18CH1005.

After lying largely forgotten for over 3 centuries, in the space of less than 3 years, the Teagues Point site has suddenly received a LOT of attention. Situated on what is now state-owned land, since 2023 Site 18CH1005 has been the subject of a ground-penetrating radar survey, a controlled surface collection, ground-truthing with professionally supervised Boy Scout labor, and the 11-day Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology. Despite all the help of our citizen scientist volunteers, there are still a lot of mysteries to solve at Teague's Point. So, we're going back!

At the beginning of last year's Field Session we weren't quite sure who was occupying the site. Teagues appeared to have both 17th and 18th -century "vibes". After some time spent analyzing the collection and examining the archival record, we think that mystery has been solved. While a handful of later white-salt-glazed stoneware sherds have come from the site, the vast majority of the artifacts appear to be late 17th-century. Fortunately, an early patent gives us the names of two planters on the tract: a Mr. Jenkins in the early 18th century, and a Michael Swift prior to 1694. We're pretty sure Teague's is the Swift house.

The domestic nature of the artifacts recovered last year certainly suggests the presence of a dwelling, and we located and sampled multiple ovoid pits, but so far structural elements like postholes and molds or chimney falls remain elusive. Well... not totally elusive. In the center of one of the largest features a jumble of very friable brick and daub was encountered. Is this a collapsed chimney remnant that is still somewhat intact, or are these ovoid features borrow pits into which debris from a nearby house was pushed? Please come help us find out!

MHT hopes to organize a bit of additional remote sensing at 18CH1005 this spring, and focus on some areas adjacent to where we worked with the ASM in 2025. Your assistance in finding the elusive postholes is greatly appreciated!

The 55th Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology will be held May 22-June 1, in Charles County. Visit the ASM's website to register: https://marylandarcheology.org/Field_Session/2026FieldSessionRegistration.html

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HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

A MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY AT
MARYLAND'S FIRST CAPITAL

At Historic St. Mary's City, a museum of history and archeology at the site of Maryland's first capital, learn the stories of how 17th-century society was built through the interactions of Maryland's indigenous peoples, European colonists, and people of African descent. Wander the reconstructed Yacomocomo hamlet, explore a colonial tavern, and step aboard a tall ship. At the St. John's Site Museum, gain insight into the ways historians and archeologists reconstruct the past, learn how slavery was introduced into Maryland society, and discover the 17th-century origins of religious freedom. Take an easy drive from the metro areas and discover one of the nation's most beautiful historic places in Southern Maryland. www.hsmcdigshistory.org/



The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to the investigation and conservation of Maryland's archeological resources. ASM members are professional, academic, and avocational archeologists. The Society sponsors publications, research, and site surveys across the State as well as hosting a Spring Symposium and a Fall general meeting and co-hosting with the Maryland Historical Trust a Saturday Workshop and an annual field/excavation session where members and the public work along side professional archeologists. In addition, ASM has chapters representing most of Maryland's geographic regions, each with its own local meetings and activities. All ASM and chapter activities are open to the public. Visit us at www.marylandarcheology.org to learn more.

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Archeology Office, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County. Since 1988, the Archeology Office has been exploring the diversity of Prince George's County's archeological resources. Through excavations, exhibits, public outreach and cultural resource management, the Archeology Office supports the M-NCPPC's numerous museums and historic sites. Hands-on volunteer programs and student internships provide opportunities for citizens and students to discover the past by participating in excavations and artifact processing and analysis. For information email the Archeology Office at archaeology@pgparks.com.



The Maryland Department of Transportation is committed to sustaining the balance between historic preservation and maintaining our transportation system. Our Office of Cultural Resources manages the Maryland Roadside Historical Marker program in partnership with the Maryland Historical Trust and supports the MDOT in cultural resources management. The Harriet Tubman Archaeology Laboratory directs archeology stewardship projects focusing on transportation landscapes and sites along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. For more information contact Dr. Julie M. Schablitsky, Chief of Cultural Resources at jrschablitsky@mdot.maryland.gov.



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Founded in 1976, the **Council for Maryland Archeology** is an organization of professional archeologists whose mission is to foster public awareness and support for the preservation of archeological resources in the state. Our membership is composed of professional archeologists either working or conducting research in Maryland. We are proud to sponsor Maryland Archeology Month and encourage one and all to visit our website <https://cfma-md.com/>, attend an event, and join us in exploring Maryland's past.



The **Maryland Historical Trust (Trust)** is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation, and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding and preserving their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Visit us at www.mht.maryland.gov



The **Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab)** is the Maryland Historical Trust's repository for archaeological collections. Located at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM), the MAC Lab opened in 1998 as a state-of-the-art archaeological research, conservation, and curation facility. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archaeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted throughout the state. It is the MAC Lab's mission to make these collections available for research, education, and exhibit. The website for the MAC Lab/JPPM is <https://jepat.maryland.gov>



Montgomery Parks Cultural Resources Stewardship Section is committed to researching, interpreting, and preserving Montgomery County's cultural heritage on parkland for current and future generations. The Archaeology Program offers a wide range of opportunities for the public to participate in archeological research and other activities, including regular volunteer days, workshops, camps, and public events. Visit ParksCulturalResources.org to learn more about our activities and current projects.

Maryland Archeology Month Institutional Sponsors

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The Maryland Archeology Month Committee gratefully acknowledges the creative work of Scott Strickland of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory in designing this year's poster.

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