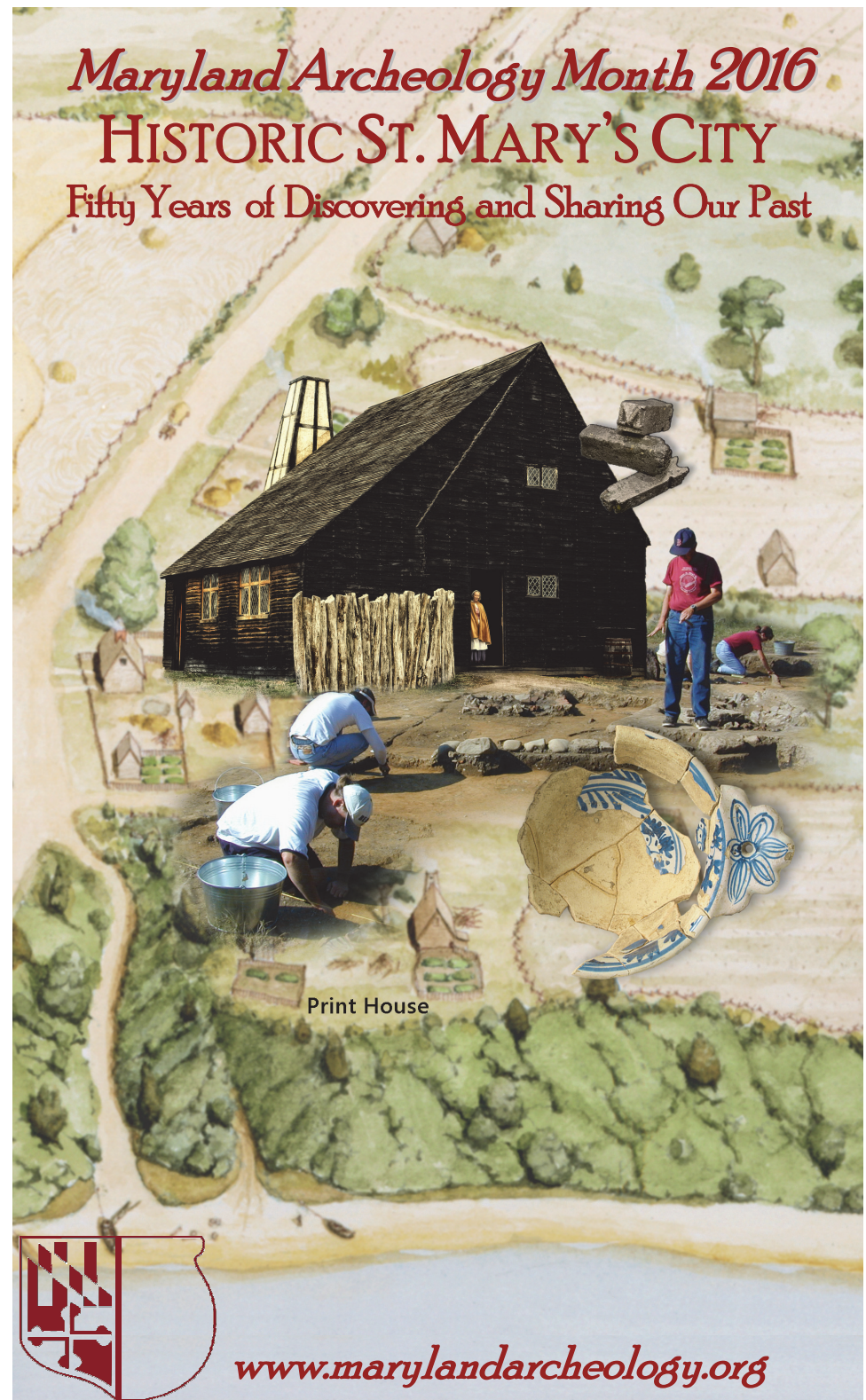


*Maryland Archeology Month 2016*  
**HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY**  
*Fifty Years of Discovering and Sharing Our Past*




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You are cordially invited to join  
 Maryland Governor Larry Hogan  
 in celebrating April 2016 as  
 "Maryland Archeology Month"

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

**MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH**  
**APRIL 1 - 30, 2016**

**WHEREAS,** 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland's Museum of History and Archaeology which commemorates the founding settlement and first capital of our great State, and celebrates historical, architectural, and most importantly archaeological investigations that allow us to share Lord Baltimore's colonial capital with the people of Maryland, the Nation and beyond; and

**WHEREAS,** Archeological sites and artifacts provide a tangible link to at least 12,000 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 Department of Planning's Maryland Historical Trust has combined forces with the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Archeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, the State Museum of Archaeology at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Maryland State Highway Administration, 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, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim**  
**APRIL 1 - 30, 2016 as MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance 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 sixteen

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The Maryland Archeology Month Committee gratefully acknowledges the invaluable and tireless assistance this year of Silas Hurry of Historic St. Mary's City.



This booklet was printed by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

## Maryland Archeology Month Events

Numerous special events celebrating the archeology of Maryland will be held throughout the State during the month of April. These include museum displays, talks and lectures, workshops, and archeological lab and field volunteer opportunities. Please visit the Maryland Archeology Month website often at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) to learn of other events – the list of events there will be updated throughout the month!

*Here's a sampling of the many free events:*

**Symposium:** *A Retrospective Overview of Classic Middle Atlantic Sites*  
**By:** Jay F. Custer, R. Michael Stewart, Cheryl Claassen, and others  
**Sponsors:** Archeological Society of Maryland  
**Location:** 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD  
**Day/Time:** April 9, 2016, 8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.  
**Contact:** Valerie Hall, 301-814-8028, [Valerie.Hall@gmail.com](mailto:Valerie.Hall@gmail.com)

**Lecture:** *Needed: Skilled Caver-Archaeologists*  
**By:** Becca Piexotto  
**Sponsor:** Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum  
**Location:** MAC Lab Meeting Room, 10515 Mackall Rd, St. Leonard, MD  
**Date/Time:** April 14, 2016, 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.  
**Contact:** Michele Parlett, 410-586-8501, [jef.pat@maryland.gov](mailto:jef.pat@maryland.gov)

**Event:** *Discover Archaeology Day*  
**Sponsors:** Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum  
**Location:** JPPM, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD  
**Day/Time:** April 16, 2016, 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**Contact:** Sherwana Knox, 410-586-8501, [jef.pat@maryland.gov](mailto:jef.pat@maryland.gov)  
**Fee:** Free

**Exhibit:** *Archaeology of the Belvoir Slave Quarter*  
**Sponsor:** Maryland State Highway Administration  
**Location:** University of Maryland, College Park. Woods Hall  
**Day/Time:** April 30, 2016, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
**Contact:** Julie Schablitsky, 410-545-8870, [jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us](mailto:jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us)

*There is a small fee for attending some events held during Maryland Archeology Month. Here's an example:*

**Children's Program:** *The "Icky" Side of History Homeschool Program*  
**Sponsor:** JPPM Education, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
**Location:** JPPM, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD  
**Date/Time:** April 5, 2016, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.  
**Contact:** Julie Hall, 410-586-8502, [julie.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:julie.hall@maryland.gov)  
**Fee:** \$8.00 student, \$2.00 adult

## Historic St. Mary's City: Fifty Years of Discovering and Sharing Our Past

*Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City*

*Curator of Collections/Archaeology Lab Director*

In 1966, the state of Maryland created the St. Mary's City Commission "for the purpose of preserving, developing, and maintaining" St. Mary's City, the founding site and first capital of the Maryland colony. The creation of the St. Mary's City Commission was an effort to bring economic development to St. Mary's County through the engine of tourism. Now known as Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) the museum has, since opening to the public in 1984, shared our stories with as wide an audience as possible.

The historic research program at St. Mary's City revolutionized our view of the 17th-century history of the Chesapeake Bay region. This work showed a very different time and place than was usually recognized as colonial America. The early history of the colony is the story of great opportunity and great risk. It wasn't until the end of the 17th century that a population of native born Marylanders matured to the point where the population and settlement did not rely on new immigrants. This extensive historical research also demonstrated that while it was possible to see how various properties related to one another, it would take a very different tool, archeology, to actually tie these properties to the ground.

While history rewrote the context of this settlement, studies of architecture provided insights into the built environment. The 17th century was not a time of colonial brick mansions, as so many had assumed, but rather extremely primitive and impermanent housing which needed constant maintenance. It was archeology that allowed these insights into how the built environment was truly constructed. It is also through archeology that we were able to find on the ground where the important stories of early Maryland had taken place. Archeology provided insight into how the people lived in the 17th century, what they ate, what they used to make their living, and how they prospered in this new and strange environment. HSMC was the first to identify a range of ceramics and other artifacts and to create a context for their understanding through historic research in primary records such as probate inventories. Historic St. Mary's City has always realized that it has a unique responsibility to discover all we can while preserving as much of the archeology as possible for future generations of archeologists to discover and share.

Historic St. Mary's City has not just investigated the past; it has worked diligently at sharing this past with visitors to the site, and through its digital outreach, people all over the world. Telling these stories and commemorating the unique events that occurred here is not just the museum's mission, it is their passion.

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Historic St. Mary’s City is inventoried as archeological site 18ST1 in the Maryland Archeological Site Survey. The entire 1500 acre area was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1969, shortly after the Landmark program was established. Landmark status is the highest level of historical significance established by the Department of the Interior.

*Photos and poster design by Don Winter (HSMC). Conjectural map of St. Mary’s City ca. 1685 by Walter Crowe.*

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## Before Maryland: Native Americans at St. Mary's City

*Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City*

For thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, American Indians found what would become St. Mary's City a wonderful place to live. Blessed by numerous free-flowing freshwater springs and well drained soils, the site provided a resource-rich environment for early occupants who cycled through the landscape in seasonal rounds utilizing various food sources at



**Palmer point made of rhyolite.**

different times of the year. The earliest stone projectile point discovered by archeologists working on these sites is an example of a Palmer point made of rhyolite. This specimen was discovered in the excavations in the Chapel Field and dates to roughly 10,000 years ago during the Early Archaic (9500 B.C. – 7000 B.C.). Other Early Archaic points are well represented within the Landmark. The most common are the LeCroy points of the bifurcate base tradition. A notable concentration of these was found in the plowed soils of the Governor's Field adjacent to what became the center of the 17th-century capital.

The Middle Archaic (7000 B.C. – 3750 B.C.) is somewhat less common in St. Mary's with the occasional Morrow Mountain and Stanly point. The Late Archaic (3750 B.C. – 1250 B.C.) is very well represented with numerous Bare Island/Holmes, Savannah River, LeHigh/Koens Crispin, and Piscataway points. Investigations in the early 1980s near the location of the Reconstructed State House found a concentration of Piscataway points in the plowed soils. Excavations uncovered a few remnant hearths, but no charcoal for radiocarbon dating. Some Late Archaic ground stone tools have been found including an atlatl weight, steatite bowl fragments, and several ground stone axes. Axe heads have been found on historic sites and may represent early collector behavior or even possibly magical practices stemming from English folk beliefs.

Early Woodland (1250 B.C. – A.D. 50) occupation is manifested by numerous Calvert and Rossville points and a fair amount of Accokeek pottery. Accokeek is one of the more common types of Indian pottery found in the area of the museum, however, like most American Indian artifacts in St. Mary's City, the ceramic is found intermixed with the colonial deposits.

The Middle Woodland (A.D. 50 – A.D. 950), is represented by Vernon, Jack's Reef Pentagonal points and Prince George ware, Popes Creek, and Mockley ceramics. A pit with large quantities of Prince George ware was discovered in the early 1980s as part of a survey to discover the main colonial

town center. An attempt to radiocarbon date the deposit proved unfruitful as the sample of charcoal appears to have been contaminated.

The Late Woodland (A.D. 950 – A.D. 1600) is distinguished by a range of triangular points, as well as Townsend, Potomac Creek, and Yeocomico ceramics. Several notable pit-type features have been encountered in past excavations. During work at the Tolle-Tabs site (Pope's Freehold) in 1972, a small hearth was found and its contents recovered for botanical analysis. No diagnostic artifacts or oyster shell were recovered from this pit, but hickory nutshell was found which was radiocarbon dated to A.D.1330. Two oyster shell filled pits with Townsend



**Rappahannock incised.**

pottery were discovered over the past decades on the campus of St. Mary's College. One of these contained elaborately decorated Rappahannock-incised pottery while the second contained more simple examples from the Townsend series. These two pits were radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1220-1280 and A.D. 1010 - 1170 respectively. Material from these pits indicates a focus on oysters, fish, and white tail deer and other mammals.

When the colonists arrived, the Yaocomaco Indians lived in dispersed hamlets occupying both sides of the St. Mary's River. They bartered this territory to the early colonists. Before departing, the Yaocomacos taught the colonists how to grow corn, a new crop that would provide most of the food for the colonists. The Yaocomaco had been suffering attacks from northern Indians and relocated to Virginia, effectively trying to use the colony as a buffer state.

While the archeology over the past five decades has found numerous American Indian artifacts, the focus of the research has been on the 17th-century European occupation. Much remains to be learned from the many pre-colonial sites at St. Mary's City.



**Native American effigy pipe.**

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### A Brief History of the Archeology of St. Mary's City

*Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City*

#### Before the Museum

The earliest evidence of "archeology" in St. Mary's City is collector activity during the colonial period. Excavations at the John Hicks site in the late 1960s recovered numerous complete stone projectile points and ground stone artifacts, but did not discover any debitage. It seems likely that the colonists were collecting the "relics" of past life as curiosities. Similar "collector" behavior has been witnessed on other sites in St. Mary's City and elsewhere. In 1799, medical students undertook excavations in the cemetery at Trinity Church in St. Mary's City to explore the burial crypt of Governor Lionel Copley and his wife Ann. Ann died shortly after the Copleys arrived in Maryland, and Lionel died in September of 1693. Both were interred in lead coffins in a brick lined burial vault adjacent to the Statehouse. The medical students pulled up one of the lead coffins and found that Ann's body was "in a state of perfect preservation." In 1922, the minister of Trinity Church entered the crypt in preparation for the Colonial Dames' plan to erect a memorial. The archeologists of St. Mary's City re-entered the crypt in the early 1990s as part of the planning process for excavating the lead coffins found at the chapel.

In 1822, the first underwater "archeology" occurred near St. Mary's City. Seven cannon from the St. Mary's River were recovered by Jesuit priest Joseph Carberry and his brother, Captain Thomas Carberry, U. S. Army. The cannon were taken to St. Inigoes Manor. They were eventually distributed to a variety of historic sites, including Georgetown University, the Statehouse in Annapolis, and Riversdale, the home of Charles Benedict Calvert. The museum holds two of these cannon today.

Attention was drawn to St. Mary's City in the late 1830s with the publication of "Rob of the Bowl: A Legend of St. Inigoe's", an historical novel set in St. Mary's City during the 1670s. Authored by John Pendleton Kennedy, a Baltimore attorney and politician, it tells a heroic story which Kennedy characterized "as much history as invention." Kennedy visited St. Mary's and its environs as research for the novel.

The 1870s and 1880s saw "heritage tourists" visiting St. Mary's City. Edward Bruce visited and wrote an article in *Lippicott's Magazine* describing the condition of the old statehouse. He stated, "A square excavation filled with bricks was all I saw. The cellar, the doctor told me, was formerly used as a depot of arms and munitions of war." William Cullen Bryant and Sydney Howard Gay, in their *Popular History of the United States* (1881), wrote, speaking of the site of the statehouse of 1676, "the rough cruciform hollow where its foundations were laid may still be seen, filled with a dense undergrowth of weeds and bushes that spring here and there from the fragments of broken masonry." James Walter Thomas penned one of the best early histories of St. Mary's in 1900 and describes the still visible remains of the brick

statehouse. He measured the foundations and presented a conjectural drawing in his "Chronicles of Early Maryland". While not actual archeology, these early enthusiasts helped keep the story of St. Mary's City alive.



One of the cannon recovered from the St. Mary's River in 1822, shown in 1933 before Tercentennial celebration.

The 1930s saw a flurry of activity in the old city in advance of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland. J. Spence Howard Sr. exposed the brick floor at the Van Sweringen site for the architects planning the reconstruction of the brick statehouse of 1676. The Tercentennial Commission hired archeologist Herbert Shelton Ragland who had directed excavations at the Capitol in Williamsburg to undertake excavations at the original site of the brick statehouse to discover a crucial dimension needed for the reconstruction.

Following the celebration in 1934, Henry Chandlee Forman carried out a series of investigations in St. Mary's City. In 1936 he excavated at the Van Sweringen site, which he referred to as the Council Chambers. In 1937 he explored the Leonard Calvert site, which he called Smith's Town House. The following year he dug at the brick chapel site, where he was the first to identify the cruciform plan of the building. Two

years later he was exploring Philp Calvert's mansion, St. Peter's, and investigating a "refuse pit" which was subsequently identified as a cellar under an outbuilding associated with Smith's Ordinary. Finally, from 1963 through 1967, Dr. Forman undertook excavations at the St. John's site. Dr. Forman was a good scholar, and much of his work was written up and published.

#### After the Museum Began

With the advent of the St. Mary's City Commission in 1966, exploration accelerated. Orin Bullock undertook a survey of an area called "the Pine Tree Hill dig" because of construction on the growing campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland. In 1969, Glenn Little and Stephen Israel completed work at that site which was identified as the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century home of John Hicks, merchant and planter. This provided information for articles on both the "John Hicks Community" by Lois Green Carr and "Ceramics from the John Hicks Site" by Little, Israel, and the new staff archeologist Garry Wheeler Stone.

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Garry served as chief archeologist and eventually Research Director until 1987. He directed work at a range of sites including the Tolle Tabbs site, St. John's, Chancellor's Point, Van Sweringen, St. Andrews and testing for the



**Garry Wheeler Stone (back row, far left) Henry Miller (second row, far right) with crew at St. John's site, 1972.**

Godiah Spray plantation. Sandy Morrison and George Miller joined the staff in 1972. Miller wrote about the ceramics from the Tolle Tabbs site in Maryland Historical Magazine in 1973 in an article entitled "A Tenant Farmer's Tableware." The 1970s saw a progression of archeologists who got their start in St. Mary's City. Bob

Keeler, Henry Miller, Michael Smolek, Joanne Bowen, Silas Hurry, Susan Henry, Dennis Pogue, and Julia King, all worked with Garry. Keeler's dissertation, "The Homelot on the Seventeenth Century Chesapeake Tidewater Frontier" (1978) demonstrated the insights that could be drawn from the analysis of plow zone artifacts. Sue Henry (Renaud) analyzed the red clay tobacco pipes from St. John's for a seminal article published in *Historical Archaeology* in 1979.

The 1980s saw investigations in the Town Center area of the City. Mark Leone and the University of Maryland field school assisted with late work at the Van Sweringen site, and proceeded with the search for the center of town. This subsequent work supported by a grant from National Endowment for the Humanities and directed by Henry Miller identified Leonard Calvert's house, Smith's Ordinary, and Cordea's Hope. The excavations also discovered the remains of Pope's Fort, the only English Civil War fortification in the New World.

More important publications followed, including "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern Colonies" which produced a true paradigm shift in understanding how 17<sup>th</sup>-century houses were built. Garry's own dissertation, completed in 1982, focused on John Lewger's occupation at St. John's. A series of reports on the investigations of the Town Center were authored by Henry Miller with the assistance of others on staff. Henry's dissertation on subsistence in the colonial Chesapeake was completed in 1984 as the museum began its rush into the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of Maryland.

In the mid-1980s, Tim Riordan joined the staff and assisted in excavations at Pope's Fort. In 1987, the first Tidewater Archaeology Weekend was held, inviting the public to participate in the process of discovery. Silas Hurry returned to St. Mary's as Curator in 1988. That same year, the museum began a project investigating the chapel. With assistance from another NEH grant, a multi-year project to explore the archeology of religion in early Maryland was begun. This work uncovered the brick chapel and disclosed architectural detail needed to plan a reconstruction, elucidated the building known as the Priests' House, and began an incredible journey of discovery involving the lead coffins. Working in association with Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian and an international cast of scientists, new and different insights into life and death in the early Chesapeake began.

The 1990s were a hectic period in the archeology of St. Mary's City. The museum moved the Brome House from its original location atop Leonard Calvert's House to a site near the home of the second governor of Maryland, Thomas Greene. This required archeology at both sites and at the 1840s Brome slave quarter as the 19th century was removed from the Town Center area. An extensive survey of the Governors Field sought to delineate the city at the same time excavations near the Town Center were undertaken to permit the reconstruction of Cordea's Hope and Smith's Ordinary. In 1996, a British television show, *The Time Team*, descended on St. Mary's City with intense remote sensing capabilities and allowed us for the first time to take a brief look at St. Peter's, Philip Calvert's "Great House." Throughout this period, the museum provided cultural resource management work for the college and their ever expanding campus.



**Ruth Mitchell at Anne Arundel Hall excavations.**

There are almost too many archeology projects to mention as we prepared to begin the new millennium. Survey on campus, shoreline and near shore survey all occupied our time and staff. Work in earnest began at the site of the Printhouse to investigate this building for reconstruction. A very major project involved work at the St. John's site as we prepared to build a museum to incorporate the archeological remains and tell new stories. This work was directed by Ruth Mitchell. Mitchell also directed major excavations on the college campus in preparation for new buildings. The most extensive effort in this regard was in the area of Anne Arundel Hall which was to be torn down and replaced by new buildings, including new archeology labs and curation facilities.

St. Mary's City and its archeology will always be a work in progress. Through the decades we have explored this Maryland treasure, we have sought to preserve more of it in the ground than we dig up, and preserve all of its artifacts in the best condition for future study.



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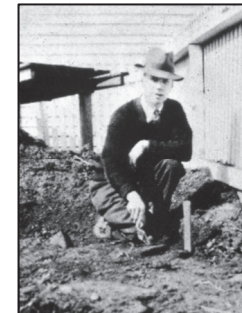


#### **Fifty Years of Discovery and Preservation**

*Henry Miller, Historic St. Mary's City  
 Director of Research/Maryland Heritage Scholar*

St. Mary's City has long held an important place in Maryland's historic memory. People remembered it was where the colony began and significant events happened. Established in 1634, it remained the capital and main city of the colony until 1695 when the government was moved to Annapolis. Residents rapidly abandoned St. Mary's afterward and it became farmland. By 1750 only a few traces remained above ground. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the colony's founding, the state created St. Mary's Female Seminary on the site in 1840, as a monument to the colonists. The first major public recognition came in 1934 for the 300th anniversary. This saw the uncovering of one archeological site and the reconstruction of the 1676 Statehouse for an event that attracted over 100,000 people. Afterward, all interest evaporated and St. Mary's returned to its agrarian slumber.

In the 1960s, residential development and growth of St. Mary's College (the former female seminary) on the old city lands raised concerns that the archeology and setting might be destroyed. Led by several legislators and retired Marine Corps General Robert Hogaboom, a state commission was established in 1966 to preserve the site, study the archeology and history, and interpret Maryland's 17th-century story to the public. Acquiring key historical lands for their long term preservation was a major goal. One of the first employees was historian Dr. Lois Green Carr, who created a research program that yielded new insights into the settlers' lives and time period by studying



**Dr. Henry Chandler Forman excavating at Leonard Calvert site.**

previously ignored documents such as probate inventories. She found that little documentary evidence about the first city had survived. The museum realized that a three part scholarly effort was needed and they hired Cary Carson who conducted architectural history and Garry Wheeler Stone who began the archeology. Working together, these scholars sought to rediscover the city and learn as much as possible about the people and society of early Maryland.

One problem was that no one had conducted a major excavation on a 17th-century Maryland site before. Aside from the testing of some foundations by architectural historian H. Chandler Forman, and the early work at Jamestown, Virginia, there was little to guide Stone. A 1638 plantation called St. John's provided the opportunity to learn how to decipher sites of this era. Work began in 1972 and continued for four seasons. This revealed an English house transplanted in America. But around it, excavators soon discovered the faint traces of a previously unknown type of architecture — post in the ground construction. Archeologists slowly learned this was the predominate architecture of the 17th-century Chesapeake. St. John's was also

the place where the artifacts of the period were first classified and studied in Maryland. Stone sought to learn about the domestic landscape as well and had diggers trace fences around the site. For the first time, a colonial site was seen as more than a foundation. It was a grouping of cultural spaces people shaped, lived in, and modified over time. To let visitors know about the work, formal tours were regularly provided to all, beginning what later was called Public Archeology in Maryland.

As land was acquired, survey work began to identify sites. This identified a huge complex of hundreds of sites dating throughout prehistory, the colonial period, and 19th and 20th centuries. All of these were considered potentially significant and steps taken to protect them. After nearly 30 years of survey effort, archeologists were finally able to piece together detailed archeological maps of Maryland's first city. This led to the totally unexpected finding that the capital had been a carefully planned city instead of the haphazard village historians had long assumed.

Over the decades, excavators have investigated a variety of sites. These include 1000 year old Chesapeake Indian shell pits, seventeenth-century public inns or ordinaries, one of the first coffee houses in English America, the 1660s Jesuit chapel, a 1680s print shop, 1700s plantations, and slave quarters of the 1800s. The chapel site also holds the unmarked graves of hundreds of Maryland's founders. This cemetery was used for about a century, beginning in the 1630s. Of all the burials, the most extraordinary were three lead coffins discovered in 1990. A major scientific project determined that they contained members of Maryland's founding family — the Calverts.

Protection of sites for future generations is a major goal of the museum. So that all archeological evidence of the city is collected, analyzed and stored in a comparable manner, the museum also conducts surveys for St. Mary's College, which rests on about one quarter of the original city. The results of these projects have allowed the college to develop while largely avoiding damage to significant sites on their campus. Another cause of archeological destruction is shoreline erosion. The museum has two miles of shoreline, with numerous sites along it. Steps were taken beginning in 1987 to control the erosion and 90% of the shore is stabilized today.



One of the large lead coffins being lifted.

The mission also involves interpreting sites. This requires their careful excavation, analysis, and exhibit design and construction. These range from erecting three dimensional timber outlines of the structures ("ghost frames") to full scale reconstructions. But much of the city still remains unexplored. Efforts are now beginning to prepare the museum for its next major public affair — the 400th anniversary of the colony's founding. Essential to that is finally discovering the site of the still missing 1634 fort where Maryland truly began.

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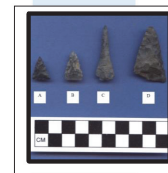
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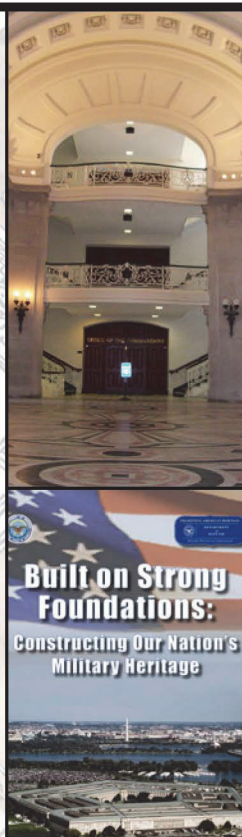
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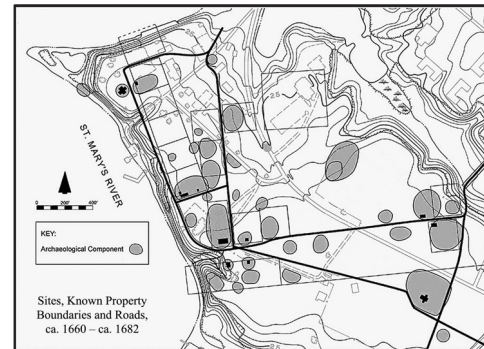
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### Finding the City

Henry Miller, *Historic St. Mary's City*

How do archeologists find what is now lost? Take the case of St. Mary's City. While people long remembered roughly where the city once stood, only a few building locations were known and people had conflicting ideas about the settlement. The museum began by compiling histories of all the land tracts within the city. Then, in 1969, a series of infrared aerial photographs was taken and copies of all earlier aerial images, beginning in 1933, were assembled. Study of these showed differences in color that often signify archeological remains and long thin lines that may have been former streets.

Site reconnaissance began as lands were acquired. The best method was found to be surface collection by 10 feet squares, each square given a unique number. Controlled surface collection gave artifact locations over the entire space and their mapping showed concentrations, indicative of buildings or activities. Metal detector hits per square further supplemented this data. Where



**Historic St. Mary's City archeological sites, and ca. 1660 – ca. 1682 property boundaries and roads.**

plowing was not possible, shovel test pits were dug every 20 feet. While inferior to surface collection, it provided some evidence of site locations.

Finally, a number of sites were sampled. Most of the time, this consisted of digging a few squares, but some sites were more intensively examined. In particular, archeologists studied buildings in what turned out to be the original city center. A National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 1981 provided the funds to conclusively locate the center of St. Mary's City. Besides architecture and abundant artifacts, these excavations also revealed many former fences. Fences are important for marking property boundaries, thereby allowing us to link some of the archeology with the few surviving land surveys. Equally importantly, fences and ditches were placed along the roadways, helping to positively identify the long vanished city streets.

Assembling all this data and mapping the area by time periods let the archeologists create the first accurate maps. It showed that St. Mary's had an elaborate geometric plan with the rare brick structures carefully placed in relation to each other and the streets. This totally changed our understanding of Maryland's first city. But making that discovery was not quick. It took over three decades of sustained work by historians and archeologists in archives, the field and laboratory. Today many details about the former capital still remain hidden below ground, awaiting future archeologists.

**Deciphering Archeology in New Ways***Henry Miller, Historic St. Mary's City*

When Historic St. Mary's City began, historical archeology was still in its infancy. In the Eastern United States, most excavation had focused on architecture, with artifacts and landscapes minimally studied. Museum archeologist Garry Stone was challenged to dig in ways that would retrieve maximum knowledge while preserving as much as possible of sites that were very rare and irreplaceable. Finding foundations was standard. A quick and widely used way to find sites in Virginia was to strip the plowed soils off large areas to reveal buildings, pits and other features. But excavation of the plowed soils at St. Mary's recovered large quantities of artifacts, all of which are lost with mechanical stripping. Mapping these materials, first by hand and then using computers showed that one could obtain remarkable new understanding of how people once used spaces at a site. Sampling and screening of plowzone soils gradually became standard practice as a result

Inspired by pioneering work at the Thunderbird Paleoindian site in Virginia, the museum contacted a soil specialist in 1974. Soil samples over the St. John's site were chemically analyzed. This showed that soil chemicals could also be human artifacts. Results showed where activities ranging from emptying chamber pots to stabling livestock occurred. Soil analysis even confirmed that one feature was the oldest known privy in Maryland. This was the first systematic soil analysis in historical archeology.

Excavations yielded a broad range of materials, including oyster shells. Shells were typically discarded, being of little value. But was that true? The museum staff worked with an ecologist and discovered that well dated shell samples can serve as environmental sensors of an estuary through time. When analyzed, one could tell the season of collection, general salinity of the water, growth rates, and even the intensity of harvesting.

Ceramics are usually a major artifact group. Reports generally list pottery by the number of sherds found but people never used sherds, they used pots. To better understand this, piles of sherds were sorted into the minimum number of vessels. But what did the vessel shapes mean? To answer this, a group of archeologists met and used the St. John's collection to develop POTS, The Potomac Typological System, in 1983. It allows vessels to be classified in 17th-century terms and effectively compared between sites. One discovery from this was a huge increase in the number of drinking vessels in late 1600s Maryland, as cultural practices began placing more emphasis upon the individual.

All of these have since become standard in historical archeology, but there is much untapped knowledge remaining in the archeological record. Reading these still hidden clues will take a new generation of inquisitive archeologists open to new perspectives, not just finding what some theory tells them should be found.



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### Explorations in a Colonial Cemetery

*Henry Miller, Historic St. Mary's City*

Archeology around the 1660s Brick Chapel at St. Mary's City detected graves surrounding and within the chapel's massive foundations. A geophysical survey suggests that there are perhaps 400 unmarked graves present, making it the largest 17th-century cemetery in Maryland. It holds many of the colony's founders. In reconstructing the chapel, the museum had to clear a zone 10 feet wide around the foundation's exterior, which uncovered 65 graves. All were carefully excavated out of respect for the people and to learn as much as possible from them.

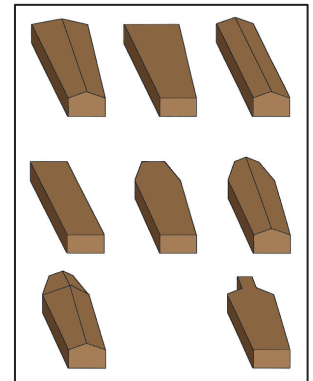


**An early shroud burial at the Chapel.**

About half of the graves contained only a skeleton, occasionally with a few straight pins. These were shroud interments where the deceased was unclothed, wrapped tightly in a sheet and placed in the grave. The rest contained nails, indicating use of wooden coffins. Because nothing was known about 17th-century colonial coffins, the museum developed a digging procedure to plot every nail by location, depth and angle, showing how they were built. Early settlers did not have a standard coffin but used eight different types. Dating the burials showed that this variety ended by 1700 when only one type — the six-sided flat topped coffin — was used. This probably reflects the early regional diversity of the settlers and gradual stabilization of the population after ca.1690. A ninth, extremely rare variety was also discovered — lead coffins. This was a royal and aristocratic form of burial and only five lead coffins from the 1600s are known in America. Excavation and analysis found that the three lead coffins at the chapel held members of Lord Baltimore's family.

Excavators were surprised to learn that there is no such thing as a six foot deep 17th-century grave. The deepest shaft was 3.5 feet, most were about 2.5 feet deep, and some were only 8 or 9 inches down, so shallow that plowing had damaged the bones.

Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution studied the skeletons. He was able to determine the age, sex, height, general health, and the frequency of chronic illness and injuries. This was the first study of 17th-century colonists in Maryland, reading their stories written in their bones. All remains will be placed in a burial vault inside the reconstructed chapel with proper religious rites when analysis is finished.



**Types of wooden coffins found in the Chapel cemetery.**

### The Archeology Beneath the Museum

*Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City*

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) has developed a wide and ranging palette of methods for sharing the story of Maryland's first capital. While we have gallery spaces where some of the archeological treasures of St. Mary's City are displayed, the museum has also utilized more varied and creative tools. Regardless of the technique used, however, all of the exhibits are founded on solid historical and archeological research.

Perhaps the most "passive" form of interpretation used at HSMC are what we call "ghost frames." These are three dimensional representations of buildings on the landscape located where we know, from the archeology, that a building was sited. The level of detail is quite variable — in some cases we only know a building was there based on a cluster of domestic and architectural material in the plow zone. Sometimes, we have excavated a sufficient part of the site so we know dimensions of the building, and where fireplaces were located. When we have that level of detail, it was incorporated into the ghost frame. When we only know a 17th-century building was in the location but do not know the actual size and layout, we instead create a generic ghost frame — these are sized to match the legal requirements for construction in the 17th century needed to "take up land." The 1680s St. Mary's City legislation mandated that people had to build houses at least 20 foot by 20 foot to claim land in the city.

The second simplest form of interpretation is the re-creation of the road system. Based on the archeology and history, we have a good sense of where roads ran in the 17th century. Some of these roads have been recreated as ADA accessible pathways while others are maintained by selective mowing. Again, this is a rather passive form of interpretation, but it begins the process of creating in the visitor's mind the idea that something was here and hopefully will inspire the desire to find out what that something was. The ADA pathways are further enhanced with interpretive signs.



**Printhouse following reconstruction.**

Perhaps the most evocative tool in our interpretive kit is full-blown structural reconstruction. These are all based on extensive archeology and analysis of the cultural and architectural remains, and are built using 17th-century construction methods. Examples at HSMC include both exhibits built on the original sites, and buildings constructed based on archeology but not located where buildings were in the past. This latter class of reconstruction is represented by the Godiah Spray plantation. Built in the early 1980s, the plantation is a synthesis of what we know about dispersed 17th-century



The Maryland State Highway Administration's goal is not only to fulfill our legal responsibilities by promoting environmentally sensitive transportation planning, but also champion historic preservation through the stewardship of Maryland's cultural resources. Our cultural resources team evaluates proposed highway construction impacts on buildings, historic districts, roadway structures and archeological sites while managing community based programs in public archeology, historic bridges, and Native American consultation. For information, contact Dr. Julie M. Schablitsky, Chief Archeologist/Assistant Division Chief, Cultural Resources Section at [jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us](mailto:jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us).

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 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) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Our website can be accessed at [www.mht.maryland.gov](http://www.mht.maryland.gov).



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Since 1988, the NHRD Archaeology Program of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has been exploring the diversity of Prince George's County's archaeological resources. Through excavations, exhibits, and public outreach and cultural resource management, the archeology program supports the M-NCPPC's numerous museums and historic sites. Hands-on volunteer programs and student internships provide opportunities for citizens and students to become involved in the process of discovering the past by participating in excavations and artifact processing and analysis. For information email Kristin Montaperto at [Kristin.Montaperto@pgparks.com](mailto:Kristin.Montaperto@pgparks.com), or call the Archaeology Program office at 301-627-1286.

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Founded in 1976, the **Council for Maryland Archeology** is an organization of professional archaeologists whose mission is to foster public awareness and support for the preservation of archeological resources in the state. Our membership is composed of over 30 professional archaeologists either working or conducting research in Maryland. We are proud to sponsor Maryland Archeology Month and encourage one and all to visit our website [www.cfma-md.org](http://www.cfma-md.org), attend an event, and join us in exploring Maryland's past.



The **Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM)** is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to the scientific study of the human past in the State of Maryland. The Society consists of professional, academic, and avocational archaeologists. In addition to the state-wide organization, the Society consists of eight chapters representing most geographic regions in the State of Maryland; each with its own local meetings

and activities. ASM sponsors publication, research, and site surveys throughout the State as well as the annual Workshop in Maryland Archeology (with the Maryland Historical Trust) and the annual Spring Symposium, both of which are public educational events. Each spring and autumn, ASM sponsors a field school/excavation which is open to public participation where members and the interested public can participate in an excavation under the direction of professional archaeologists. Visit us at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org).

settlements and their architecture. The second form of full reconstruction can be seen in the Town Center. Here one can see William Smith's Ordinary, Marc Cordea's mercantile house, and the Printhouse. Finally, and most dramatically, we have reconstructed the massive Jesuit brick chapel which stood on the townlands in the latter 17th century. All of these were built on their original sites with their structural posts set back in the original holes or built atop the original foundations. Even on these sites, we have taken care to preserve much of the archeology undug so that future researchers can ask new questions.

A somewhat different approach was used in developing the Van Sweringen exhibit. While matching the form and shape of the original building, Van Sweringen uses sympathetic but modern and durable materials to create an interpretive infrastructure. The exhibit uses signs and audio devices to tell the story of this most enduring early Marylander. Garrett Van Sweringen was a creative entrepreneur who immigrated from what had been the Dutch colony in Delaware to Maryland after the English conquered Delaware in the 1660s. He operated a private inn and opened the first coffee house in the English colonies of North America. The largest single descendant group that visits St. Mary's are Garrett's progeny.



**Interior of the St. John's Site Museum featuring actual archeological remains.**

The most creative and unusual exhibit at HSMC consists of a museum built around an archeological site. The St. John's site was the first major 17th-century occupation investigated by the museum. Principal work was done there in the early 1970s, but the museum was not built until 2008. The building that houses the site was constructed to appear very much like the 17th-century house with wooden siding and a pantile roof. Inside are the actual archeological remains of the St. John's house, including the foundations, fireplaces, and cellars. We have recreated the building frame and finished one gable end to show how archeologists go from a plan in the ground to an understanding of architecture and the built environment. Beyond the foundation area, a series of artifact cases tells the stories of the various households that occupied the structure while a number of interactive elements allow visitors to explore how building frames were constructed, how rational choices were made about architecture by the 17th-century colonists, and how we teased the information out of the excavations and artifacts

St. Mary's is not finished telling the stories this landscape represents. The oldest surviving building on the 17th-century property is an 18th-century barn which has been restored to serve as a location to tell the story of the city lands after there ceased to be a city. We have plans for further interpretation of the post-city period using an 1840s quarter built to house the enslaved. Our story will never end, and our telling of this story will continue to evolve.

**Each Artifact a Story: History Written in Ten Objects***Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City*

This red clay tobacco pipe combines the Algonquin incised deer motif on a Susquehannock-style collared pipe. The Indians who lived in St. Mary's when the Maryland colonists arrived had faced repeated attacks by the Susquehannock and welcomed the colonists as a buffer between them and the Iroquoian speaking people. Eventually, all of the Indians were displaced by a growing European population, leading remnants of the Piscataway to resettle amongst the Susquehannock in what became Pennsylvania.

Made of lead and bearing the arms of the Lord Baltimore, this small seal was discovered in the archeology undertaken in advance of the construction of the St. John's Site Museum. While heavily corroded, the seal has both the cross bottony from the Crossland family and pales from the Calvert arms. This object probably served as a *bulla* or tamper-indicating seal for a chest of documents sent by Cecil, Lord Baltimore, to his son Charles who resided at St. John's from 1661 until 1666.



The largest investor in the early Maryland colony beyond the Calvert family was the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits. Much of what we know of the initial voyage to Maryland comes from the writings of Father Andrew White. White had served as a university professor in Europe and was a gifted linguist who set out to convert the local American Indians. During Ingle's Revolt, White was imprisoned and sent back to England where simply being a Jesuit was a capital offense. White was eventually freed, but Lord Baltimore would not allow him to return to

**Archeological Society of Maryland**

Field and Laboratory Volunteer Opportunities Statewide

The Archeological Society of Maryland involves the public in field and lab events throughout the year and across the state. Included are the annual Field Session co-hosted with the Maryland Historical Trust, and ongoing and periodic opportunities hosted by the Society's Chapters throughout the state. An Annual Meeting, as well as a day-long annual Workshop and Symposium, may also be of interest. Membership in the Society is not required, although it affords discounted entrance fees and other benefits. Visit the website at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) and explore the many opportunities advertised there!

**Maryland Historical Trust**

Archeology Programs

The Maryland Historical Trust is committed to involving the public in archeology. The Maryland Maritime Archeology Program provides opportunities for volunteers in field activities on a seasonal basis. Participants need not be divers. Terrestrial archeological programs include an annual Field Session co-hosted with the Archeological Society of Maryland. This eleven-day field investigation combines education with research, and provides unparalleled professional-avocational interaction. Additional field projects occur throughout the year. An Open Lab is held on most Tuesdays during the year teaching proper archeological lab techniques. Presentations, displays, publications, and internships are also offered. To learn more contact State Terrestrial Archeologist Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov), or State Underwater Archeologist Susan Langley at [susan.langley@maryland.gov](mailto:susan.langley@maryland.gov).

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<http://mht.maryland.gov/>**Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians**

The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM), the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Council for Maryland Archeology offer a Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians (CAT Program), providing an opportunity to be recognized for formal and extended training in archeology without participation in a degree program. Certificate candidates must be members of the ASM, and work under the supervision of a mentor. A series of required readings and workshops is coupled with practical experience in archeological research. For information about the CAT Program, and application forms, visit the ASM web site at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org).

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Ph: 410.586.8501 Fax: 410.586.8503 [www.jefpat.org](http://www.jefpat.org)

**The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**

Montgomery Parks Department, Park Planning and Stewardship

Join the Montgomery Parks' archaeology program in uncovering Montgomery County's past through the investigation and analysis of sites that cover the entire 12,000 year history of the County. There are opportunities for fieldwork and labwork. Volunteers are welcome on Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact Heather Bouslog by phone at 301.563.7530, or email at [Heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org), or visit [www.ParksArcheology.org](http://www.ParksArcheology.org).

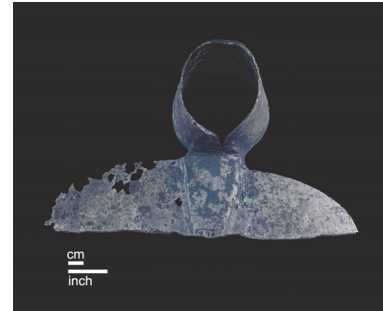
Archaeology Program  
Needwood Mansion  
6700 Needwood Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855

**Historic St. Mary's City: A Museum of History and Archaeology**

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) is the site of the fourth permanent English settlement in North America, Maryland's first capital, and the birthplace of religious toleration in America. The archaeology department at HSMC, with St. Mary's College of Maryland, offers an annual Field School from May 26 through August 6 in 2016. While in the field, staff and students offer tours of the excavations. At Tidewater Archaeology Weekend (July 30 – 31) the public can discover what it's like to be an archeologist and take a special tour of the archeological laboratory. The St. John's Site Museum provides insights into ways researchers use historical and archaeological evidence. Contact HSMC 240-895-4990, 800-SMC-1634, or [Info@HSMCdigshistory.org](mailto:Info@HSMCdigshistory.org). For a list of events visit [www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events.html](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events.html).

Historic St. Mary's City  
Museum of History and Archaeology  
P.O. Box 39  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Maryland because of his age and health. This copper alloy medallion features Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus and the first Jesuit to be canonized.



In the early Maryland colony, the most important tool was the field hoe. Rather than plowing the soil, the colonists raised tobacco and corn in "hills" among the stumps of the recently cleared fields. One of the attractions of the site of St. Mary's was the already cleared fields which allowed the colonists to rapidly produce crops and thereby avoid the terrible scarcities that plagued Jamestown and other early settlements. With a hoe and an axe, a colonist could create a plantation out of the wilderness. It remained the principal agricultural tool until well into the 18th century when the colonists shifted some of their energy towards growing wheat.

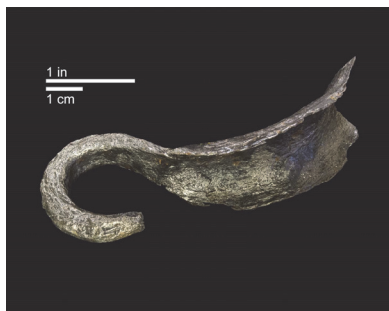
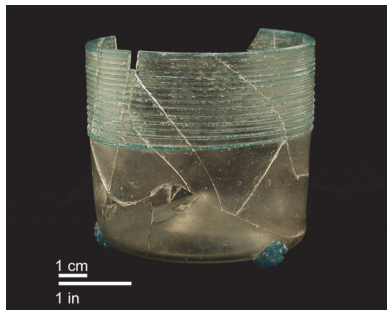
While fortunes were made in Maryland by raising tobacco, the colonists imported most of their tobacco pipes from Europe. In the early days of the colony, many Dutch ships traded in the Chesapeake exchanging manufactured goods for the hogsheads the colonists filled with tobacco. This clay pipe was made in Holland during the middle of the 17th century. Holland remained active in the Maryland tobacco trade until the imposition of the Navigation Acts barring it from trade. Many Dutch colonists from Delaware relocated to Maryland after Holland lost her North American colonies to the British in 1664.



In the 16th through 18th centuries, Kutahya was the center of ceramic production in Turkey. Kutahya was the successor to Iznik, the more modern name for Nicaea. These brightly decorated ceramics using a range of rich colors were shipped throughout the Islamic world and imported into Europe. This type of ceramic has only been found on four other archeological sites in North America.



This delicate, highly decorated drinking vessel was discovered in the excavations at Smith's Outbuilding in the Town Center in the early 1980s. Most likely made in Holland, this glass was found in a hole dug in the floor of the cellar. This pit contained the remains of nine elaborate drinking vessels, and all of the fragments of a German stoneware ewer. How these artifacts came to be buried together is unknown, but a leading hypothesis is that a servant dropped a tray and decided to hide their mistake to avoid punishment.



Made of wrought iron, this wrist shackle most likely was used to restrain enslaved Africans. It was found in excavations in the late 1960s, but its function was not identified for more than thirty years. Towards the end of the 17th century, plantation owners turned more to enslaved Africans as a labor force rather than indentured servants who had labored in the fields during the early days of the

Calvert colony. This specimen is from the John Hicks site.

This Mexican real dates to the 1850s, and was discovered in the area of a 19th-century slave quarter related to the Brome Plantation. Pierced coins are somewhat common on the sites of the enslaved, serving as spiritual symbols of protection. They were often given to newborn children, so perhaps this coin deflected a young baby from harm. Intriguingly, this coin was pierced directly through the central motif which featured a figure in a "liberty cap."



The Atlantic Lunch was a restaurant in the Atlantic Hotel in Washington, D.C.

During the early 20th century it was operated by a family with deep St. Mary's County connections. It served as a link to Southern Maryland for individuals who went to the city for work. It was the focus of an intense oral history project when discovered in the early 1970s.



## Archeology Volunteer Programs

Following are examples of programs in Maryland that offer opportunities to get involved in archeology. For more information about these and other similar programs visit [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org).

### *Archeology in Annapolis*

Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland College Park

Archeology in Annapolis is a research project that has explored the heritage of Maryland's capital since 1981. Opportunities to participate are available throughout the year, and fieldwork will be conducted from May 31 to July 8, 2016 during a field school offered by the Department. The field school is offered as a class for undergraduate or graduate credit, or a workshop for non-students. For more information, contact Stefan Woehlke ([swoehlke@umd.edu](mailto:swoehlke@umd.edu)), Tracy Jenkins ([thjenk@umd.edu](mailto:thjenk@umd.edu)), or call (301) 405-1429.

### *The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission*

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Experience Prince George's County's history first-hand through volunteering with the Archaeology Program. Individuals, 14 years and up, can learn how archaeologists investigate the past and assist them with outdoor excavations and lab work. Volunteer registration is required through [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com). For more information call the Archaeology Program office at 301- 627-1286 or email Kristin Montaperto at [Kristin.Montaperto@pgparcs.com](mailto:Kristin.Montaperto@pgparcs.com).

Archaeology Program

Natural and Historical Resources Division

8204 McClure Road

Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

### *Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Program*

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program works with the non-profit The Lost Towns Project to promote archaeological research and public education programs. We seek dedicated volunteers and interns, no experience required, to help with all aspects of field and lab work. Join us to discover history at a variety of dig sites across the County or to process artifacts at our lab in Edgewater. To learn more, please email [Jasmine Gollup at volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:Jasmine.Gollup@losttownsproject.org) or call 410-222-1318.

Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Laboratory

839 Londontown Road

Edgewater, Maryland 21037

By appointment