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Teacher's Institute Huge Success

In July, the Department was privileged to participate for the first time in the annual summer Teachers' Institute hosted by the Virginia Historical Society (VHS). Every year, VHS presents a two-week institute for teachers on some aspect of history. This year, VHS and the Department collaborated to present "History Underfoot, Archaeology for Teachers." Thirty-eight teachers applied for the program, the largest number of applicants ever received for a Teacher's Institute program. Twenty-one teachers were chosen representing elementary, middle, and high schools from all geographic areas of the state.

DHR curator Lysbeth Acuff, assistant curator Keith Egloff, and conservator Melba Myers worked closely with VHS in designing a program tied to the SOLs which included one week of lectures in the lab and one week of field school. Many field schools across the state participated in the program and teachers had a wide variety to choose from. The first week, lectures and hands-on activities were held at the Department and VHS. DHR staff chose faculty from archaeologists working in the state. Among those participating were Dr. Pamela Cressey, Alexandria Archaeology; Dr. Daniel Mouer, Virginia Commonwealth University; Dr. Jeffrey Hantman, University of Virginia; Kay McCarron, University of

Virginia; Dr. Douglas Owsley, Smithsonian Institution; and Meredith Poole, Colonial Williamsburg. Field school directors were also available to answer teachers' questions about the opportunities for the second week of the institute, which would be scheduled later in the summer at their sites.

Teachers enjoyed the varied activity of DHR's teaching, research, and curation center. While lectures for the teachers were being held in the Study Collection, Dr. Owsley and his students were conducting osteological research on colonial human remains in the Conservation Lab. In the climate-controlled collections area, VHS curators and exhibit specialists were unpacking the travelling exhibit "Treasures from Mount Vernon" for installation in the historical society's galleries. Said one participant, "This has been by far one of the most interesting, stimulating, and thought-provoking institutes I've ever attended (including Williamsburg, which was outstanding). I only wish every educator, whether history or other, was able to have this unique experience. I know that my own instruction will improve because of this...."

The potential for many more collaborative programs has been established, both with VHS and other institutions. The collections/curation area was designed to accommodate this

type of programming and now has proven more than adequate to meet these needs.

Virginia Archaeology Month

October is archaeology month in Virginia. This year's theme, "Held in Trust," underscores the statewide focus on community archaeology. Alexandria Archaeology designed the Virginia Archaeology Month poster in honor of the city's 250th anniversary, and will co-host an "Alexandria Super Weekend" with a Virginia Archaeology Month kickoff event, an afternoon-long Archaeology Fair, on Oct. 9. Thirty other institutions are sponsoring events across the state during October, from exhibits, tours, and children's events to lecture series. All events are listed in the "Calendar of Events" published by the Department and available free of charge. The calendar and poster were mailed to teachers and made available to the public in early September. Contact the Department for a copy.

Collections Survey

Archaeological collections are one of the major resources from which we can learn about the past. The Department curates over 750 Virginia collections in the facility at 2801 Kensington Avenue in Richmond. These collections provide a look at Virginia prehistory from 12,000 years ago through the historic period to the early 20th century, representing every geographical location in the state. The Department's collections are constantly in use for research by professional archaeologists, students, and avocational archaeologists.

The Department, however, is not the only institution curating artifacts. To better serve the public and those interested in archaeological research, DHR is conducting a survey of institutions that currently hold collections. Survey forms were sent out in June to identify museums, contract firms, cities, and local governments with archaeology programs. Information from this survey will be used to create a collections database which will include site numbers, size of collection, time period, location, and availability for research and exhibit. This information will be made available on the Department's website.

If you or your institution have collections that you are caring for or know others that do, please contact Lysbeth Acuff the Department (804) 367-2323 ext. 134, or at bacuff@dhr.state.va.us so this information can be included in the database.

Virginia Radiocarbon Date Database

A newly created research tool will soon be available on the Department's web site. The Virginia Radiocarbon Database of 472 dates has been assembled from all



published and known radiocarbon dates from archaeological sites in the state.

The database contains the following information: file ID#, site number, site name, county, provenience, associated cultural material, cultural period, radiocarbon assay, calendar date, date based on measured C13/C12 ratios, calibrated mean dates, calibrated one-sigma and two-sigma date ranges, laboratory reference, and additional comments. The database is patterned after the form created by the North Carolina Radiocarbon Date Study as published in *Southern Indian Studies*, Volume 43. Jane M. Eastman, in Volume 42 of *Southern Indian Studies*, provides an informative discussion of the North Carolina Radiocarbon Date Study. Eastman includes a discussion on the temporal and geographic distribution of radiocarbon dates and a discussion of dated ceramics.

Designed for ease of use, information can be located by searching for the file ID# or by querying for site number, site name, county, or time period. Two fields, "Associations" and "Comments," are text fields that may be searched by specific words (Palmer, Dan River, maize, hickory, etc.). After querying, the searching field may be opened up and the information printed out on the radiocarbon date form. Chris Eckard, Archeological Society of Virginia, created the database in Microsoft Access. Any corrections or additions should be brought to the attention of Keith Egloff, DHR, (804) 367-2323 ext. 131, kegloff@dhr.state.va.us.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As we head into the fall of 1999, here are some notes on the Community Awareness "Toolbox" Campaign (see page 4). First, the toolbox garnered a silver medal in the 1999 Richmond Advertising Club competition, a highly competitive event that has gained a national reputation because of the outstanding creativity of advertising firms in the region. Second, an exhibit on the toolbox campaign will be featured at the National Trust's National Preservation Conference in Washington, D.C. in October, sharing with preservationists from across the country our statewide grassroots strategy to help communities realize the benefits of preservation.

September will mark a celebration of the restoration of Berry Hill plantation, one of Virginia's great historic buildings, and of its reopening as a corporate training center by AXA, a major multinational financial corporation headquartered in France. AXA's adaptive reuse of the property is a textbook example of how historic resources can benefit communities in many ways, including job creation. The Berry Hill project epitomizes the Community Awareness Campaign's theme of "putting Virginia's history to work," and has prompted Halifax County to undertake a county survey of its historic resources through the Department's cost-share program.

"Held in Trust, Community Archaeology in Virginia" is the theme for Virginia Archaeology Month, October 1999 (see page 2). This year a grand kickoff weekend of events, walking tours, and conferences will be held in Alexandria. Over 66 events are scheduled around the state. Visit our website to see the Calendar of Events and find out what is happening in your area.

The restoration of the Executive Mansion, in which DHR staff is heavily involved, is ahead of schedule. Filming for "Bob Vila's Home Again" has begun, and the Governor and his family are slated to move back into the mansion in early November. The Department is also documenting the restoration, and the multimedia documentation will be available to the public at the Library of Virginia and at the Department.

Virginia's TimeTravelers program wraps up its fourth successful year with more than 180 participating museums and historic sites, and a record number of TimeTravelers visiting those sites – the final count to be tallied in October. Now officially administered by the Virginia Association of Museums, this exciting travel and learning program this year supported the international George Washington 1999 promotion, awarding visitors to Washington sites a special gold-embroidered Washington patch. On TV stations across the state, you'll see First Lady

Roxane Gilmore promoting TimeTravelers in a public service announcement that appeals to students and families. TimeTravelers can now read about the First Lady's visits to Mount Vernon and five other TimeTravelers sites, in addition to logging reports of their own onto the website www.timetravelers.org

We look forward to launching the 4th edition of the *Virginia Landmarks Register* book on November 15 at a celebration at the Virginia Historical Society. Reviewed by the *Journal of Southern History* as "an invaluable guide to the physical heritage of Virginia and the South," the book represents the most comprehensive inventory ever assembled of the nearly 1,800 historic properties officially listed on the Virginia register. Edited by Calder Loth, senior architectural historian, and published by the University Press of Virginia, it is available at pre-publication prices through December (to order, see flyer insert).

1999 CLG Grant Awards Announced

The Department of Historic Resources has announced 1999-2000 CLG grant awards totaling \$65,651 to six Certified Local Governments: the cities of Fairfax, Richmond, and Suffolk, and the towns of Leesburg, Middleburg, and Pulaski. Eleven CLGs submitted applications, requesting a total of \$160,910 in grant assistance.

The six projects selected represent an interesting variety of preservation projects from four major regions of the state. The City of Fairfax will undertake an archaeological investigation of Blenheim, a city-owned historic property, and nominate the property for listing on the state and national registers. The City of Suffolk will revise and extend its design review guidelines to several historic districts within its jurisdiction. The Town of Middleburg, Virginia's newest CLG, will update its local inventory of historic resources and prepare a formal survey report on the town's history, architecture, and sites. The Town of Leesburg will complete the final phase of a multi-year updated historic resource survey of the town, together with a final survey report. The Town of Pulaski will prepare a national Register nomination for Calfee Park, a 1935 baseball stadium. The City of Richmond will undertake a survey of Highland Park, one of six neighborhoods targeted for revitalization by the city's "Neighborhoods in Bloom" initiative.

Correction: In the June newsletter, p.2, the Harcum Store and Post Office was incorrectly identified as being located in Lawrenceville. The building is located in Gloucester.

Riverside Cotton Mills Rehabilitation

With the help of preservationists, hard work, and use of federal and state historic rehabilitation tax incentives, historic Riverside Cotton Mills may reclaim its original role as the economic heart of Danville. A new rehabilitation project is underway to restore the mills into offices, shops, restaurants, museums, and residential space.

Located on the Dan River in Danville, the mills served as the city's center for industry and culture for more than 100 years. In 1996, because of changes in the textile industry, the mills consolidated their operations elsewhere in the community, leaving a remarkably intact collection of historic industrial buildings without a use. Last November, after the current owner, Dan River Inc., initiated plans to demolish the mills, local preservationists quickly began searching for alternatives for recycling the property.

DHR and the National Trust for Historic Preservation joined the community in exploring options. Generously embracing the community's preservation goals, Dan River Inc. helped make the project possible. In June, Dan River donated the mills to a non-profit agent, the Danville Historical Society. Scott A. Burton, one of the founders of the Riverside Mills Redevelopment Group LLC, made the transfer possible by securing a line of credit of \$250,000 from the National Trust. Once Dan River Inc. and the historical society signed the deed of gift, the historical society then entered into a long-term lease with Riverside Mills Redevelopment, the group created to head the restoration project.

Riverside Development will restore and rehabilitate the 13 textile buildings to bring new life to the mills and the surrounding river area. The buildings, constructed between the 1880s and 1920, contain more than 800,000 square feet of space on 29 acres. Specific plans for the project will be announced in early fall, but local interest is already growing. Without advertising the project, Burton has pre-sold 20 condos. "People are rediscovering the joys of this old architecture. There is a sense of history and a sense of place," Burton said.

The rehabilitation project will expand beyond the walls of the mills to include a half-mile river walk. One of the main attractions included in the renovation will be the creation of a museum dedicated to "The Wreck of Old 97," a 1903 train crash that occurred on the mill track and was later immortalized by one of country music's first million-seller songs. The entire project is expected to cost \$50 million and take a decade to complete. Funding for the rehabilitation may come from both public and private sources. The developers will also harness state and federal tax incentives to realize credits of up to 45 percent of eligible rehabilitation

expenses. DHR staff, who administers the state and federal tax credit programs, will advise the developers making application for the project.

The rehabilitation of historic Riverside Cotton Mills will be vital to the preservation of Danville's mill town heritage. "The redevelopment is potentially the largest economic development project in Southside Virginia since the opening of Dan River Mills at the turn of the 20th century," said John Kern, director of Roanoke Regional Preservation Office.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN STRIKES DEEP ROOTS

The statewide Community Awareness Campaign, designed to help decisionmakers and opinion leaders in Virginia understand that historic resources are assets for communities, is striking deep roots locally and attracting attention nationally. In April, the Preservation Alliance of Virginia and DHR completed the last of eight regional workshops in which volunteers from nearly every locality in Virginia were presented with a red tool box that bears the legend, "To preserve Virginia's history, you'll need a few tools." The toolbox contains all the resources needed to build a local preservation promotional effort. DHR staff and statewide leaders trained volunteers on how to use it. In the weeks leading up to National Historic Preservation Week, May 9-16, toolbox leaders proved instrumental in encouraging city councils and boards of supervisors to adopt 28 proclamations of Historic Preservation Week.

Toolbox recipients are now becoming advisors to DHR regional office staff, and receive regular updates on the progress of the campaign. The Winchester, Petersburg, and Portsmouth field offices help their first regional advisory committee meetings in June. Campaign volunteers met DHR regional staff, heard reports on the progress of the campaign, and shared success stories and cautionary tales. Advisory committee reports indicate that the campaign is bringing a positive change in the outlook of local officials and other community leaders. Regional committees will meet again in September.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently awarded the Department two matching grants to support the next phase of the Community Awareness Campaign, which will focus on how to integrate historic resources into local

comprehensive plans. During the coming year, a special effort will be made to present toolboxes to all Certified Local Governments, to all 21 planning district commissions, and to presidents of all branches of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. The Preservation Alliance of Virginia, in cooperation with DHR, will hold a panel discussion and training workshop for campaign volunteers at the PAV's 2000 Statewide Conference, this coming April.

Finding Common Ground

You have to educate us. Your local elected officials need to hear about why and how historic preservation can enhance communities economically and culturally." That was the message of Petersburg's Mayor Rosalyn Dance and Richmond City Councilman Bill Johnson to about 100 preservationists at Virginia's second statewide Certified Local Government Conference, "Finding Common Ground: Meeting Community Needs Through Historic Preservation," held May 14 at the Opera House in Old Town Petersburg.

Speaking at a session entitled "Working Effectively with Local Elected Officials," Dance and Johnson reminded local preservationists and members of CLG preservation commissions that they can work most effectively with local elected officials when they take the time to educate those officials and keep them informed. Thanking local officials when they champion the cause of historic preservation and supporting them when they take difficult positions are key to developing relationships of mutual understanding and respect.

In addition to highlighting the need to form partnerships with local officials, the conference urged local governments to put the preservation of African-American history high on the preservation agenda. Workshop keynote speaker Claudia Polley, of the National Association for African-American Heritage Preservation, spoke of her organization's work with local history organizations to recognize and promote sites of African-American heritage. Local, regional, and state case studies of successful African-American heritage preservation projects were then presented. Petersburg planning director Leonard Muse cited his city's efforts to preserve its legacy of African-American sites through brochures, walking tours, and neighborhood revitalization projects. Lacy Ward used the example of the Robert Roussa Moton School in Farmville and local efforts to promote a regional Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail to show how African-American sites can become players in Virginia's burgeoning heritage tourism industry. With a slide presentation of Virginia landmarks of black history, DHR Senior Architectural Historian Calder Loth encouraged localities to identify and

nominate African-American sites to the state and national registers.

Finding common ground with developers was the theme of talks given by developer Robin Miller, attorney Dan Gecker, and Petersburg planner Landon Wellford, who gave case studies of successful state and federal rehabilitation tax credit projects, followed by walking tours in Old Town Petersburg and at the new Appomattox Governor's School.

A written report and videotape highlights of the Petersburg conference will be available in the fall. Contact Ann Andrus at (804) 863-1622.

PAV Conference 2000: "Putting History to Work," April 14-16, 2000

Learn how you and your community can be "Putting History to Work," at the Spring 2000 Preservation Alliance of Virginia Conference (PAV). Co-sponsored by DHR, the conference will feature workshops, lectures, plenary sessions, and tours showing participants new ways to utilize history for community benefit.

The conference, open to the public, begins Friday, April 14, with concurrent sessions on heritage tourism and the new historic zoning handbook. After lunch at the Commodore Theatre, attendees will participate in a plenary session with key PAV officials. For the afternoon sessions, participants can learn more about history and their communities from several seminars including the "Economic Benefits of Preservation" and "Caring for Your Historic Home." The evening will feature a dinner cruise on the *Carrie B.*, a 19th-century Mississippi paddleboat.

Saturday morning offers a variety of useful preservation sessions ranging from "Preservation & the African-American Community" to "Ask the Architects." From 2-5 p.m. the conference will hold a special session for Community Awareness Campaign (CAC) volunteers. The workshop, led by Bob Carter of DHR's Capital Region Preservation Office, will give CAC participants an opportunity to network and share campaign "war stories" with statewide counterparts, to refine campaign strategies, and to receive new tools on how to put historic resources to work in their communities. To encourage attendance, PAV is offering a special discount on conference registration for CAC volunteers.

Mark your calendars now, and stay tuned for more information about the PAV Conference 2000. To register, call Anne Thompson of PAV at (804) 984-4484.

New DHR Staff

John G. "Jack" Zehmer

Jack Zehmer took the opportunity to get back to what he calls the basics -- grassroots and hands-on projects -- by joining DHR in January. As an architectural historian in the Capital Region Preservation Office, Zehmer will help homeowners research old properties, file for tax credits on historic properties, and help obtain listings on the National and State registers. He will also offer renovation advice on historic structures. Zehmer began his history-



related career, after earning a master's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia, as the director of historic sites and museums at the Department of Archives and History in North

Carolina. In 1981, he left North Carolina, working as Richmond city senior planner for historic resources, then serving as director of the Valentine Museum. For the last 14 years, Zehmer served as the executive director of the Historic Richmond Foundation, where he was involved in 20 major Richmond restoration projects, published three scholarly works on Richmond architecture, and studied part of the canal.

Reggie Williams

Reggie Williams came on board DHR as fiscal officer in December. Williams works in the Capital Region Preservation Office and manages the agency's fiscal and accounting systems. He ensures



timely payments of obligations, accurate accounting, financial analysis and reporting, grants management and budget execution. For the last five years, Williams worked in accounting for the Department of Health, Central State, and Hiram Davis Medical Center. At the Department of Mental Health

and Mental Retardation, he served as budget analyst, overseeing the annual and biennial operating budgets. During his work with the state, Williams also held the positions of accountant, grant specialist, and fiscal

Ulysses Brown

Ulysses Brown implements, updates, and advises on information technology at DHR as the computer systems engineer. Brown joined the DHR team in October as a certified Microsoft and Windows product specialist. He



works in the Richmond office. Before coming to DHR, Brown served the Department of Environmental Quality for 12 years in many capacities including managing information systems and databases. He has also been a network consultant for several businesses in the private sector. He holds a Bachelor of Science in

biochemistry from Virginia Tech.

Cara Metz

Cara Metz was recently promoted to the position of Director of the Division of Resource Services and Review at DHR. She previously served as Archaeologist Senior in that division. In her new position, Metz administers the state and federal project review program, the certified rehabilitation tax credit program, and the historic easement program. Before coming to DHR in 1994, Metz worked for the



Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the College of William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research. In addition to presenting a number of papers on various topics at professional

meetings, she wrote more than 20 archaeological reports and published two articles on 18th-century Bermuda. Metz received an A.B. from Bowdoin College in Maine and holds an M.A. in anthropology from the College of William and Mary.

Calendar of Events

- September 15** | **Historic Resources and State Review Board Meeting** (Richmond). Quarterly meeting to consider nomination of historic properties to the national and state registers. Location: Wilton House. Contact June Ellis at (804) 367-2323, ext. 116.
- September 18-October 18** | **Fall River Renaissance** (Statewide). Jump into Virginia's waterways in an educational, recreational, or environmental event. Adopt a stream in an historic district or join forces in riverfront resource preservation. Call Katherine Harding at (804) 367-2323, ext. 136 for details.
- September 23-October 3** | **State Fair of Virginia (Richmond)**. Visit the Virginia Archaeology Exhibit, sponsored by DHR and the Archaeological Society of Virginia, at the fairgrounds at Strawberry Hill.
- September 29** | **DHR Lithic Kit Workshop** (Richmond). Participants will assemble lithic kits containing stones used by prehistoric people in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. The kits will be used as a research reference tool for archaeologists. The workshop is from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., reservations required. Call Keith Egloff at (804) 367-2323, ext. 131 for details.
- October 1-31** | **Virginia Archaeology Month** (Statewide). "Held in Trust, Community Archaeology in Virginia." The kickoff begins **October 9**, in Alexandria, at the 1st Annual Urban Archaeology Festival. Thirty institutions across the state are sponsoring events including exhibits, tours, lecture series, and children's events. Call Beth Acuff at (804) 367-2323, ext. 134 for details about specific events.
- October 8-11** | **Archaeological Society of Virginia Annual Conference** (Alexandria). This three-day conference offers an array of archaeological activities including meetings, lectures, banquets, and site tours. For more information, call Beth Acuff at (804) 367-2323, ext. 134.
- December 15** | **Highway Marker Application Deadline** (Statewide). All historic highway marker applications to be considered at the March Board meeting must be submitted.
- April 14-16** | **PAV Conference 2000** (Portsmouth). Learn new ways to put history to work in your community in workshops, plenary sessions, lectures, and tours. To register, call Anne Thompson of PAV at (804) 984-4484.

Fall River Renaissance

Jump into Virginia rivers, lakes, and streams this fall and join Virginians of all ages in the Fall River Renaissance campaign to improve our waterways and natural and historic resources. In addition to maintaining waterways through adopting a stream, organizing cleanups, or planting riparian buffers, you can participate in Fall River Renaissance by utilizing history. Study the waterway nearest you to find out about its environmental and historical importance to your community, join up with other concerned citizens to create plans to restore your riverfront resources, or support responsible environmental practices such as low-till plowing to reduce erosion and destruction of archaeological sites.

From September 19 to October 19, register any waterway event – educational, recreational, or environmental, and receive a certificate of appreciation from Governor Jim Gilmore and Secretary of Natural Resources John Paul Woodley, Jr. For more information about Fall River Renaissance, call Katherine Harding at (804) 367-2323 ext. 136.

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