

The Maryland Historical Trust
and
The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.
present

A WORKSHOP IN ARCHEOLOGY

Saturday, March 26, 2016



Robert Keeler, Sara Hopkins, and Sandy Morrison at Historic St. Mary's City in 1975 (*Baltimore Sun* archival photograph)

Exploring a Beautiful Place in Time: Reflections on Half a Century of Archeology at St. Mary's City, *Henry M. Miller.* Maryland's founding site and first city has long been a place deeply embedded in the state's memory. It is also where historical archeology in Maryland began. This presentation reviews some of the many findings of archeological exploration at the site, which started in the early 20th century, and has been constant for the past 50 years under the auspices of the state museum Historic St. Mary's City. It traces the development of the research effort, examines some of the ways the archeology has changed our understanding of the early colony, and has influenced the practice of historical archeology in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Searching for King Opessa's Town in the Mountains of Maryland, *John Bedell.* From about 1715 to 1732, a band of Shawnee Indians lived in a place in western Maryland known to Europeans as King Opessa's Town. A detailed review of the records shows that there were actually two Shawnee towns on the upper Potomac, one of them at what is now called the Barton site and the other at Oldtown. The Oldtown site is part of the C&O Canal National Park. So when the Louis Berger Group carried out an archeological study of the western part of the park, they searched for the remains of King Opessa's Town. This turned out to be much more difficult than anyone expected. In fact, although the survey of Oldtown turned up many wonderful archeological discoveries, King Opessa's town itself has not been conclusively identified. Since all of the possible locations have been explored, this may be telling us something about the way of life of this band of Shawnee, and by extension that of many Native Americans in the eighteenth century.

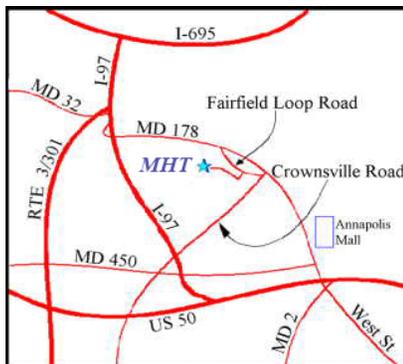
Heritage From the Ground Up: Using Technology to Study Enslaved and Free Workers in an Iron-making Community, *Elizabeth Comer, Robert Wanner, & Jane Seiter.* Catocin Furnace was a thriving iron-working community at the base of the Catocin Mountains in northern Frederick County, Maryland. From its beginnings in 1776, enslaved African Americans and European immigrants comprised the labor force, producing the iron tools and armaments that powered a growing nation until the furnace's demise in 1903. A joint research project undertaken by the Catocin Furnace Historical Society, EAC/Archaeology, and the Smithsonian Institution is investigating the lives of hitherto unknown furnace workers. This overview shares analyses of skeletal remains, LiDAR, X-ray fluorescence (XRF), historical documents, vernacular architecture, genealogical research, and geophysical data to illuminate the living conditions and contributions of this population. The project provides data-grounded interpretations for public presentation and restoration efforts that highlight the role of free and enslaved workers in the early industrial history of the United States.

Outfitting Outlander: Costumes, Props, and Comparisons to Maryland Archeology, *Sara Rivers-Cofield.* For people who do historical archeology for a living, the eye candy provided by the new *Outlander* series on Starz goes beyond attractive men in kilts and ladies in gowns. Period dramas often need to take creative license with sets and costumes in order to facilitate the filming process, and while these compromises can frustrate history buffs looking for a 100% realistic depiction of the past, Maryland's artifacts prove that much of the material in *Outlander* is spot-on. This talk will explore how *Outlander's* costumes and props compare to 18th-century artifacts recovered by archeologists in Maryland such as table glass, medicine containers, horse tack, architecture, weaponry, clothing, and more.

CAT SESSION — Prehistoric Overview, *Charlie Hall & Bob Wall.* This program is designed to introduce the participants to the basics of prehistoric archeology with a focus on Maryland. During the first hour, the presenters will provide participants with a history of prehistoric archeology in Maryland, as well as an introduction to the concepts and research topics that characterize prehistoric archeology in our State today. In the second hour they will review the sweep of 12,000 years of Maryland's prehistory beginning with Paleoindian settlement and culminating with 17th century European colonization.

Mallows Bay, The Ghost Fleet and Beyond, *Susan Langley.* On an ebb tide nearly 100 skeletons of WWI-era wooden steamboats seem to rise from the waters of a small embayment on the Potomac River. This presentation examines their history and role in the first new National Marine Sanctuary in more than 20 years.

New Technologies in Site Recording, *Kirsti Unnila & Scott Strickland.* Making use of available technologies towards archeological recording have made the transfer and analysis of data much simpler than in the past. Utilizing mobile GIS and GPS applications in particular has proven useful in both the recording of archeological resources as well as the recording of key inter-site spatial data. Calvert County (Sewell, Unnila et al.) has modified ArcGIS Collector to develop a mobile app that runs on any platform and is used to automatically generate site forms for submittal to the Maryland Historical Trust. By making use of already available GPS apps for iOS and Android, simple, inexpensive, and time-efficient methods for pedestrian or surface surveys of sites have been developed in St. Mary's County (Strickland), which can then be analyzed for spatial patterns in GIS applications.



Directions

Follow Maryland Route 178 (Generals Highway) towards Crownsville. At the light at Crownsville Road, turn onto Crownsville Road, then make an immediate right onto Fairfield Loop Road. Take the first left, and bear right around the Children's Center toward the People's Resource Center and the MHT parking lot.

100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
STATE OF MARYLAND
mht.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
and
THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND, INC.

25th Annual
WORKSHOP IN ARCHEOLOGY
Saturday, March 26, 2016
100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland

9:00 Registration and Refreshments <i>1st Floor Lobby & Main Conference Room</i>		
9:30 Welcoming Remarks, Elizabeth Hughes (MHT) and Claude Bowen (ASM) <i>1st Floor Main Conference Room</i>		
1st FLOOR MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM	BASEMENT CAFETERIA	3rd FLOOR MHT BOARDROOM
9:45 Searching for King Opressa's Town in the Mountains of Maryland <i>John Bedell</i>	Book Sales & Exhibits 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM * Archeological Society of Maryland * Battle of the Atlantic Research & Expedition Group * Institute for Maritime History * Maritime Archaeological & Historical Society	9:45 Heritage from the Ground Up: Using Technology to Study Enslaved and Free Workers in an Iron-making Community <i>Elizabeth Comer et al.</i>
10:45 Coffee Break		10:45 Coffee Break
11:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Exploring a Beautiful Place in Time: Reflections on Half a Century of Archeology at St. Mary's City <i>Henry M. Miller</i>		
12:15 Lunch — The cafeteria at 100 Community Place <i>is closed</i> . Nearby restaurants are limited (a listing will be provided at registration). Save time...bring a bag lunch and mingle with friends.		
1:30 Outfitting Outlander: Costumes, Props, and Comparisons to Maryland Archeology <i>Sara Rivers-Cofield</i>	“The Artifacts of Outlander” exhibit will be on display throughout the day in the alcove just off the 3rd floor elevator lobby...you can't miss it!	1:30 CAT Session: Prehistoric Overview, Part I † <i>Charlie Hall</i>
2:30 Mallows Bay, The Ghost Fleet and Beyond <i>Susan Langley</i>	2:30 New Technologies in Site Recording <i>Kirsti Uunila & Scott Strickland</i>	2:30 CAT Session: Prehistoric Overview, Part II † <i>Bob Wall</i>

ADMISSION FEE (*payable at the door*): **\$7.00** General admission; **\$5.00** for ASM members and students.
† Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) candidates seeking credit for their certification program must attend both sessions.