



COL Howard MacCord Chapter  
Virginia

Archeological Society of

December, 2011 No. 275

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The COL Howard MacCord Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia will hold its Christmas Dinner this year at the Tanglewood Ordinary in Goochland County. The dinner will be held on Dec. 15th, at 6:30 PM and the cost will be \$22 per person. In order for Tanglewood to prepare for this we request that you RSVP by the 13th of December to Lynn Taylor. Her email address is: [taylor9603@yahoo.com](mailto:taylor9603@yahoo.com). You may call her in the evening at 804-240-9978 if you have any questions.

Tanglewood Ordinary is located 20 minutes west of Parham Road on Patterson Avenue, which is State Route 6 in Goochland County, Virginia. Patterson Avenue changes to River Road West a few miles into Goochland County.

Their address is: 2210 River Road West, Maidens, VA 23102-270

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### **Conquistador Was Deep in U.S.: "Stunning" Jewelry Find Redraws Route?**

Ker Than for National Geographic News

Under a former Native American village in Georgia, deep inside what's now the U.S., archaeologists say they've found 16th-century jewelry and other Spanish artifacts. The discovery suggests an expedition led by conquistador Hernando de Soto ventured far off its presumed course—which took the men from Florida to Missouri—and engaged in ceremonies in a thatched, pyramid-like temple. The discovery could redraw the map of de Soto's 1539-41 march into North America, where he hoped to replicate Spain's overthrow of the Inca Empire in South America. There, the conquistador had served at the side of leader Francisco Pizarro.

A continent and five centuries away, an excavation organized by Atlanta's Fernbank Museum of Natural History found buried glass beads, iron tools, and brass and silver ornaments dating to the mid-1500s. The southern-Georgia location—where they'd been searching for a 17th-century Spanish mission—came to be called the Glass Site. "For an Indian in the South 500 years ago, things like glass beads and iron tools might as well have been iPhones," said project leader Dennis Blanton, an independent archaeologist who until recently was Fernbank's staff archaeologist. "These were things that were just astonishing to them. They were made of materials that were unknown and were sometimes in brilliant blue and red colors that were unmatched in the native world."

Blanton called the finding a "stunning surprise." Prior to the discovery, it had been generally accepted that de Soto and his men had crossed a river about 100 miles (160 kilometers) upstream of the site, but archaeologists hadn't suspect that the expedition had ventured so far south and east. The trove of items—all of which could fit into a shoe box – represents the largest collection of early 16th-century Spanish artifacts ever found in the U.S. interior outside of Florida, according to Blanton, whose work was funded in part by the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration. (The Society owns National Geographic News.) Excavations by Blanton's team suggest a large building with a thatched, pyramid-shaped roof once stood at the Glass Site. The structure was surrounded by a ditch, contained a large central hearth, and may have served as an important ceremonial center or temple. The concentration of Spanish artifacts at the Glass Site suggests de Soto may have participated in a gift-exchange ceremony with the town's chief and other leaders. It's not known what the Spaniards would have received in return, but they commonly asked for food, information, free passage, baggage carriers, and perhaps female company, Blanton said.

By comparing the archaeological results with journal accounts by the Spanish party, Blanton and his team think the Glass Site was an important village in a province ruled by the Ichisi Indians. The team also believes de Soto and his men stayed there between March 30 and April 2, 1540, according to journals. De Soto's party consisted of more than 600 men and hundreds of pigs and horses—animals that many of the Indians had never seen before.

"There are accounts in the chronicles of how Indians at first imagined the mounted men to constitute a single creature," Blanton said. To encourage cooperation among the Indians and avoid conflict, de Soto sometimes claimed to be a god.

"De Soto took advantage of the fact that the Indians revered the sun and even at Ichisi made the claim to be descended from it," Blanton said. By 1540 rumors of an "alien people" had already spread among Native Americans in southeastern North America, but few Indians would have encountered any Europeans in the flesh, he said. "A de Soto encounter would have been for most, if not all, of the people at the Glass Site a wholly new—and undoubtedly startling—experience," Blanton said.

The fact that there is no evidence of mass killing or vandalism at the Glass Site suggests de Soto and his men were treated well during their stay, he added. And in fact Spanish journal records say the Spaniards were lavished with food and hospitality at an Ichisi village, which Blanton suspects was the Glass Site settlement. This wasn't always the case. "The Spaniards often treated the Natives very badly, and when the local people did not accede to their demands, de Soto would usually take the local leader hostage until he got his way," said Jeffrey Mitchem, a de Soto scholar with the Arkansas Archeological Survey, who was not involved in the discoveries. "Usually their demands for food and young women wore out their welcome very quickly," Mitchem said, "so the natives were almost always trying to make them leave as rapidly as possible."

Mitchem agreed that the discoveries support the idea that de Soto and his men camped for several days at the Glass Site. "Many of the specific types of artifacts that have been found at [Glass Site] are the same types recovered from other sites that were contacted by the Hernando de Soto expedition," he said. The new discoveries will not only help refine de Soto's expedition route, but could also provide valuable insight into how American Indian groups were organized in particular areas.

"As we identify specific Native American towns or villages described in the narratives, we can then look at what the Spanish narratives tell us about the political situation in those specific areas," Mitchem said. The team has also explored another Georgia Indian site, called Deer Run, but the case for a de Soto encounter there is less conclusive, Blanton said.

While a visit by de Soto's party is the most likely explanation for the artifacts found at the Glass Site, Blanton says there may be another explanation: that the items were left by deserters of the lost Spanish colony of Ayllon. The settlement is known only from writings, and some scholars have proposed it was located on the

Georgia coast. Though it's unlikely that the bead site harbored lost colonists, Blanton said, "if that proves to be true, then the Glass Site record is arguably even more spectacular."

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### **Colonial-era artifacts found at Kempsville work site**

By Rita Frankenberry, The Virginian-Pilot

Kempsville's early life as a bustling river port 250 years ago has only been hinted at in old city documents, its history traced by a paper trail of deeds and tax records. But recently, amid a road construction site and mounds of dirt, area archaeologists got their first glimpse of Colonial Kempsville. As excavators dug trenches to reroute storm drains and sewer pipes along Princess Anne Road, the heavy equipment dug up more than just dirt. "There was brick flying everywhere," said Tony Smith, an archaeologist who was at the site when the 18th century bricks were found. "When you get a bucketful of bricks, you kind of think, 'Hey, something's going on here.' "

After temporarily stopping construction – the site is near the Oakmeads Crescent and Princess Anne Road intersection – Smith determined that the bricks were from the foundations of two buildings that likely date back to Kempe's Landing, a once-bustling, 1750s Colonial river port. That expansive waterway – now a much smaller creek– was used to transport timber and tobacco up the Elizabeth River to Norfolk for export. The digging also turned up some 200 shards of German brown stoneware, which also dates to the mid-1700s, Smith said. It's the first discovery of artifacts from Kempe's Landing, he said.

"We've never been able to find anything," Smith said. "Now we know at least some of it is still here. When you think about all the development going on here today, it's amazing that something from the 1750s is still intact."

Although it's too early to be sure, Smith said the site may have housed a tobacco warehouse or some other commercial building because no domestic artifacts, such as tobacco pipes or glass from wine bottles or windows, turned up. "If the city hadn't had us involved, it would've just been blown through," he said. Now, the artifacts have been sized, dated and photographed.

Mark Reed, the city's historic resources coordinator, was also at the construction site Friday. He hopes some of the pieces can be reassembled. The city plans to continue monitoring the digging, he said. Although the road construction won't stop, Reed said it's important to have an archaeologist on site as the work is being done to note the location and depth of any finds. Already, the foundation has been covered back up, he said. The rerouted Princess Anne Road will go over the general area where the artifacts were found. "We'll know where that feature is and can potentially go back in depending on what we find," Reed said. "It's exciting. We can definitely say we found Kempe's Landing, or at least the village of." The Battle of Kempsville was also fought there in November 1775.

"It obviously suggests there is more to be found," Smith said. "It would be great to follow the foundation and see the size and how it's constructed. But that would take time and money."

### **Extinct hominids may have been first to build with bones**

By Bruce Bower of Science News Web edition

Humanity's extinct cousins constructed a large, ring-shaped enclosure out of 116 mammoth bones and tusks at least 44,000 years ago in West Asia, say archaeologist Laëtitia Demay of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris and her colleagues. The bone edifice, which encircles a

40-square-meter area in which mammoths and other animals were butchered, cooked and eaten, served either to keep out cold winds or as a base for a wooden building, the scientists propose in a paper published online November 26 in *Quaternary International*.

Mammoth-bone huts previously discovered at *Homo sapiens* sites in West Asia date to between 27,500 and 15,000 years ago. The new discovery comes from Molodova, a Ukrainian site first excavated in the 1950s. There, Neandertals erected a mammoth-bone structure that's unlike later mammoth-bone huts, suggesting that the two *Homo* species developed these practices independently, says study coauthor Stéphane Péan, also of France's National Museum of Natural History.

Researchers have argued for decades about whether Molodova Neandertals left mammoth bones scattered about or built something out of them. "My own inclination is to assume that some type of mammoth-bone structure, maybe a wind break, was present at Molodova," remarks archaeologist John Hoffecker of the University of Colorado Boulder. A Czech Republic site of comparable age contains a similar circle of mammoth bones, Hoffecker says.

It's hard to know whether Neandertals or modern humans occupied Molodova, he cautions. African *Homo sapiens* reached Europe by 45,000 years ago (SN Online: 11/2/11), and discoveries in the last few years indicate that those early migrants made stone tools much like those found at Molodova and traditionally attributed to Neandertals, Hoffecker says. No fossils have been unearthed at the Ukrainian site, leaving the identity of its occupants uncertain, in his view. Demay's team regards Molodova stone tools as typical of Neandertals that lived in Europe and West Asia before modern humans showed up. Neandertals assembled the circular Molodova structure out of the largest and strongest parts of mammoth skeletons — mainly tusks, shoulders, ribs and hips, the scientists say. Weathering and water damage on the bones indicate that they were placed in a shallow trench.

Remains of at least 15 mammoths, all bearing stone-tool marks but few signs of chewing by nonhuman animals, were uncovered inside the bone enclosure. Excavations also produced bones of red deer, bison and other animals that contained butchery marks. Meat from these animals was cooked in 15 fire pits arrayed throughout the site. Neandertal groups consisting of no more than around 30 individuals, Péan proposes, periodically camped at Molodova while cutting up and consuming mammoth and other prey.

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### **Archaeologist brings history to life with re-creation of prehistoric tools**

BY JOE STUMPE, Wichita Eagle correspondent

As an archaeologist, Terry Powell often wondered how effective the tools made by prehistoric man really were. "I was just real curious how they worked," Powell said. "Did they work? I assume they did. They made them."

Unable to test-drive valuable artifacts, Powell started re-creating those tools as a hobby and found they did function.

Today he's making that interest work for him as owner of Tools From the Earth, producing replicas of ancient tools for museums, personal collectors and others.

Most recently, he shipped a hoe made from a bison scapula to the Indiana State Museum, which is staging an exhibit on the history of corn. That led to requests for more replicas. Powell ended up sending several tools, including a corn-husking peg, stone hoe, and mortar and pestle. Powell, who has a master's degree in anthropology from Southern Illinois University, worked as an archaeologist for 30 years before forming Tools From the Earth a year ago. He moved to Wichita from St. Petersburg, Fla., with his wife, Jan Luth, when she took a job as director of Exploration Place. His workshop is located beside their home in east Wichita.

Powell makes his replicas from the same materials — wood, stone, shells, bones, hide — the originals utilized. He works from a variety of sources: photographs, diagrams and first-hand knowledge of prehistoric tools that have been found whole or partially preserved; written accounts from early explorers about what they found in the Americas; even oral histories from Native Americans made during the last century. In addition to buying materials from suppliers around the country, he finds much of what he uses — for instance, following tree trimmers to look for branches whose shapes might lend themselves to certain uses. When a particular material isn't available, Powell finds a substitute that he thinks the original toolmakers might have used if available. For a rake that early inhabitants of South Dakota made with willow saplings, Powell substituted false indigo, which looks like willow and bends nicely. "If they had it up there, they probably would have used it," he said.

The tools range from the simple — a hairpin made of bone — to the complex, such as a fish trap made of bent, intertwined branches that fish swim into, but not out of. It's opened by loosening twine. Powell said 90 percent of the tools he makes are functional. He has replicated hundreds of tools, from beaver-tooth chisels to coastal axes made of conch shells to a sickle that he said cut tall grass better than anything in his garage. Powell sells kits that include the tools and background information that teachers and others can use to make presentations. Some of the kits show tools in various stages of completion, or allow students to participate in the process. "Nowadays museums and everybody else want to do interpretation," he said. "It used to be they just put stuff on display."

Although Powell uses the same materials as prehistoric man, he works with modern tools. "Nobody wants to pay you for 30 hours for something you can make in a few hours with modern tools," he said. Replicating and using prehistoric tools has given Powell several insights that simply finding them might never have generated. For instance, archeologists were puzzled as to why a small shark-tooth knife — probably used as a finishing tool for making bowls and other objects — had such a long handle. Powell thinks it was to allow the user to get both hands on the handle at once. Despite his admiration for ancient tools and their makers, the implements definitely had limitations. With stone axes, for instance, "you have to learn from trial and error how much pressure you can put on them" before breaking. "It's easy to see why natives went to metal as soon as it was available," he said.

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### **U.S. Civil War Took Bigger Toll Than Previously Estimated, New Analysis Suggests**

ScienceDaily

The Civil War, already considered the deadliest conflict in American history -- in fact took a toll far more severe than previously estimated. That's what a new analysis of census data by Binghamton

University historian J. David Hacker reveals. Hacker says the war's dead numbered about 750,000, an estimate that's 20 percent higher than the commonly cited figure of 620,000. His findings will be published in December in the journal *Civil War History*.

"The traditional estimate has become iconic," Hacker says. "It's been quoted for the last hundred years or more. If you go with that total for a minute -- 620,000 -- the number of men dying in the Civil War is more than in all other American wars from the American Revolution through the Korean War combined. And consider that the American population in 1860 was about 31 million people, about one-tenth the size it is today. If the war were fought today, the number of deaths would total 6.2 million."

The 620,000 estimate, though widely cited, is also widely understood to be flawed. Neither the Union nor the Confederacy kept standardized personnel records. And the traditional estimate of Confederate war dead -- 258,000 -- was based on incomplete battle reports and a crude guess of deaths from disease and other non-combat causes. Although it is impossible to catalogue the fate of each of the 3 million or more men who fought in the war from 1861-65, some researchers have tried to re-count deaths in selected companies, regiments and areas. But Hacker says these attempts at a direct count will always miss people and therefore always underestimate deaths.

"There are also huge problems estimating mortality with census data," Hacker explains. "You can track the number of people of certain ages from one census to the next, and you can see how many are missing. But the potential problem with that is that each census undercounted people by some unknown amount, and an unknown number of people moved in and out of the country between censuses."

However, new data sets produced in the last 10 years or so, instead of giving the aggregate number of people in certain age groups, identify each person and his or her age, race and birthplace. Hacker realized that civilian deaths were so low relative to soldiers' deaths that he could compare the number of native-born men missing in the 1870 Census relative to the number of native-born women missing and produce an estimate from that.

Hacker looked at the ratio of male survival relative to female survival for each age group. He established a "normal" pattern in survival rates for men and women by looking at the numbers for 1850-1860 and 1870-1880. Then he compared the war decade, 1860-1870, relative to the pattern.

His new estimate of Civil War deaths contains a wide margin: 650,000 to 850,000, with 750,000 as the central figure. Pulitzer Prize-winner James McPherson, the preeminent living historian of the war, says he finds Hacker's estimate plausible. "Even if it might not be quite as high as 750,000, I have always been convinced that the consensus figure of 620,000 is too low, and especially that the figure of 260,000 Confederate dead is definitely too low," McPherson says. "My guess is that most of the difference between the estimate of 620,000 and Hacker's higher figure is the result of underreported Confederate deaths." Like earlier estimates, Hacker's includes men who died in battle as well as soldiers who died as a result of poor conditions in military camps.

"Roughly two out of three men who died in the war died from disease," Hacker says. "The war took men from all over the country and brought them all together into camps that became very filthy very quickly." Deaths resulted from diarrhea, dysentery, measles, typhoid and malaria, among other illnesses. McPherson says the new figure should gain acceptance among historians of the era. "An

accurate tally -- or at least a reasonable estimate -- is important in order to gauge the huge impact of the war on American society," he says. "Even if the number of war dead was 'only' 620,000, that still created a huge impact, especially in the South, and a figure of 750,000 makes that impact -- and the demographic shadow it threw on the next two generations of Americans -- just that much greater."

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### **Archaeologists comb newly-found Civil War POW camp**

By RUSS BYNUM, the Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. – When word reached Camp Lawton that the enemy army of Gen. William T. Sherman was approaching, the prison camp's Confederate officers rounded up their thousands of Union army POWs for a swift evacuation, leaving behind rings, buckles, coins and other keepsakes that would remain undisturbed for nearly 150 years. Archaeologists are still discovering unusual, and sometimes stunningly personal, artifacts a year after state officials revealed that a graduate student had pinpointed the location of the massive but short-lived Civil War camp in southeast Georgia. Discoveries made as recently as a few weeks ago were being displayed Thursday at the Statesboro campus of Georgia Southern University. They include a soldier's copper ring bearing the insignia of the Union army's 3rd Corps, which fought bloody battles at Gettysburg and Manassas, and a payment token stamped with the still-legible name of a grocery store in Michigan.

"These guys were rousted out in the middle of the night and loaded onto trains, so they didn't have time to load all this stuff up," said David Crass, an archaeologist who serves as director of Georgia's Historic Preservation Division. "Pretty much all they had got left behind. You don't see these sites often in archaeology." Camp Lawton's obscurity helped it remain undisturbed all these years. Built about 50 miles south of Augusta, the Confederate camp imprisoned about 10,000 Union soldiers after it opened in October 1864 to replace the infamous Andersonville prison. But it lasted barely six weeks before Sherman's army arrived and burned it during his march from Atlanta to Savannah.

Barely a footnote in the war's history, Camp Lawton was a low priority among scholars. Its exact location was never verified. While known to be near Magnolia Springs State Park, archaeologists figured the camp was too short-lived to yield real historical treasures. That changed last year when Georgia Southern archaeology student Kevin Chapman seized on an offer by the state Department of Natural Resources to pursue his master's thesis by looking for evidence of Camp Lawton's stockade walls on the park grounds. Chapman ended up stunning the pros, uncovering much more than the remains of the stockade's 15-foot pine posts. On neighboring land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he dug up remnants of the prisoners themselves, a corroded tourniquet buckle, a tobacco pipe with teeth marks in the stem and a folded frame that once held a daguerreotype. "They're not just buttons and bullets," Chapman said. "They're little pieces of the story, and this is not the story of battles and generals. This is the story of little people whose names have been forgotten by history that we're starting to piece together and be able to tell."

A year later, Chapman says he and fellow archaeology students working at Camp Lawton have still barely scratched the surface. In July, they used a metal detector to sweep two narrow strips

about 240 yards long in the area where they believe prisoners lived. They found a diamond-shaped 3rd Corps badge that came from a Union soldier's uniform. Nearby was the ring with the same insignia soldered onto it. The artifacts also yield clues to what parts of the country the POWs came from, including the token issued by a grocery store in Niles, Mich., that customers could use like cash to buy food. Stamped on its face was the merchant's name: G.A. Colbey and Co. Wholesale Groceries and Bakery. Similarly, there's a buckle that likely clasped a pair of suspenders bearing the name of Nanawanuck Manufacturing Company in Massachusetts. Hooks and buckles that appear to have come off a Union knapsack also hint that, despite harsh living conditions, captors probably allowed their Union prisoners to keep essentials like canteens and bedrolls.

The Georgia Southern University Museum plans to add the new artifacts to its public collection from Camp Lawton in October along with a related acquisition, a letter written by one of the camp's prisoners on Nov. 14, 1864, just eight days before Lawton was abandoned and prisoners were taken back to Andersonville and other POW camps. The letter written by Charles H. Knox of Schroon Lake, N.Y., a Union corporal in the 1st Connecticut Cavalry, was purchased from a Civil War collector in Tennessee. Unaware that Camp Lawton will soon be evacuated, Knox writes to his wife that he hopes to soon be freed in a prisoner exchange between the warring armies. He doesn't write much about conditions at the prison camp, but rather worries about his family. He tells his wife that if she and their young son need money for food or clothing, there's a man who owes him \$9. Knox also gives his wife permission to sell the family's cow.

Brent Tharp, director of the campus museum, said his growing collection from Camp Lawton has definitely drawn Civil War buffs to visit from far beyond southeast Georgia. "The people who are real Civil War buffs and fanatics, those are definitely coming," Tharp said. "But I think we've also created a whole new group of Civil War buffs here because it's right here in their own backyard."

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### **When Humans First Plied the Deep Blue Sea**

by Michael Balter of ScienceNOW

In a shallow cave on an island north of Australia, researchers have made a surprising discovery: the 42,000-year-old bones of tuna and sharks that were clearly brought there by human hands. The find, reported online today in *Science*, provides the strongest evidence yet that people were deep-sea fishing so long ago. And those maritime skills may have allowed the inhabitants of this region to colonize lands far and wide. The earliest known boats, found in France and the Netherlands, are only 10,000 years old, but archaeologists know they don't tell the whole story. Wood and other common boat-building materials don't preserve well in the archaeological record. And the colonization of Australia and the nearby islands of Southeast Asia, which began at least 45,000 years ago, required sea crossings of at least 30 kilometers. Yet whether these early migrants put out to sea deliberately in boats or simply drifted with the tides in rafts meant for near-shore exploration has been a matter of fierce debate.

Indeed, direct evidence for early seafaring skills has been lacking. Although modern humans were exploiting near-shore resources, such as mussels and abalone, by 165,000 years ago, only a

few controversial sites suggest that our early ancestors fished deep waters by 45,000 years ago. (The earliest sure sites are only about 12,000 years old.) Among the skeptics was Susan O'Connor, an archaeologist at the Australian National University in Canberra. "The evidence was pretty slim," she says.

That is until she excavated a shallow cave called Jerimalai on East Timor, an island nation just north of Australia. In the earliest levels of Jerimalai, dated to 42,000 years ago, about half of the fish are fast-swimming species, such as tuna and sharks, that live in deep waters. O'Connor's team also found a fishhook at Jerimalai made from a mollusk shell and dated to 23,000 years ago, which the team claims is the earliest definite evidence for line fishing. (There are claims for fishhooks in Europe going back about 20,000 years, but the dating is less certain.)

The new evidence "certainly suggests that people had advanced maritime skills" by 42,000 years ago O'Connor says, at least "in terms of fishing technology." The finds indicate that this mastery of the sea "must have been one of the things that allowed the initial colonization" of East Timor and other Southeast Asian islands, such as Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. But O'Connor cautions that there is still no direct evidence about the maritime skills of the first people who colonized Australia, leaving open the possibility that they drifted there with the tides.

Archaeologist James O'Connell of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, who has argued that "a broad range of evidence" points to deep-sea fishing between 45,000 and 50,000 years ago, says that the new evidence from Jerimalai "solidifies the case." But William Keegan, an anthropologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, points out that the relatively small size of the tuna found at Jerimalai—mostly between 50 and 70 centimeters long—suggests that they were immature, juvenile fish that might have been caught close to shore. And Geoff Bailey, an archaeologist at the University of York in the United Kingdom points out that East Timor and the other islands in the area have very steep offshore topography, meaning that the deep waters favored by adult tuna and sharks are very close to land. These species, Bailey says, "would likely come very close inshore and be catchable without necessarily requiring people to set off in boats."