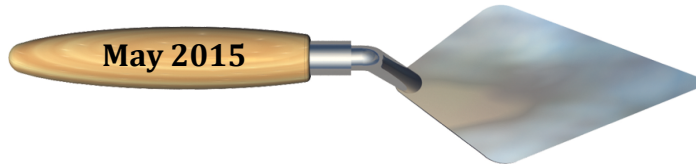


The Scoop

A Newsletter of the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources FOFA



The Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources, and the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority are pleased to sponsor:

Colchester Archaeological Research Team



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 6th 9:30 AM -2:30 PM
Old Colchester Park & Preserve
10605 Furnace Road
Lorton, Virginia



CELEBRATE HISTORY AND CULTURE

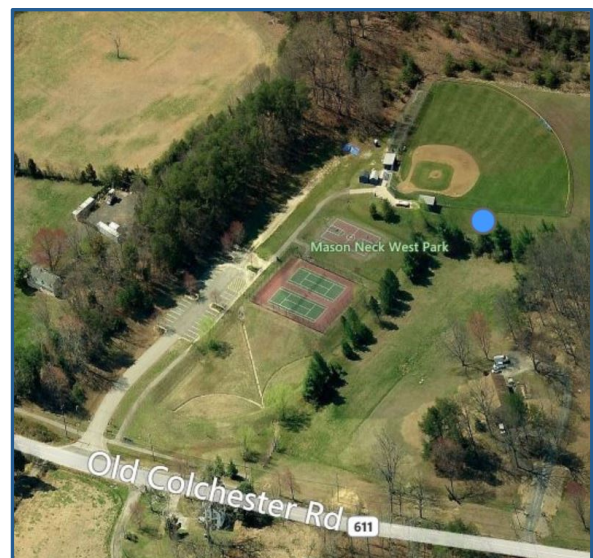
The Colchester Archaeology Research Team (C.A.R.T.) has researched the archaeological and architectural history of the Old Colchester Park & Preserve for the last five years. FOFA needs your support so that the team can continue to reveal secrets from the past residents of this portion of Fairfax County.

Please join us for a day of archaeology and history at the Old Colchester Park & Preserve and visit the ongoing excavations at the Cemetery Site, where CART hope to uncover more of the foundation they discovered last fall.

Exhibits will showcase Native American cultures, the Colonial Port Town of Colchester, Historic Architecture, and the use of Geographic Information Systems for archaeological research. Several archaeological tours of the Town of Colchester will be given at 10 am and at noon. For the more adventurous, a hiking

tour highlighting the history and nature of the park will also be offered.

Parking for the Open House will be at Mason Neck West Park, located at 10418 Old Colchester Road. A shuttle will transport visitors to and from the parking area and the Old Colchester Park & Preserve.

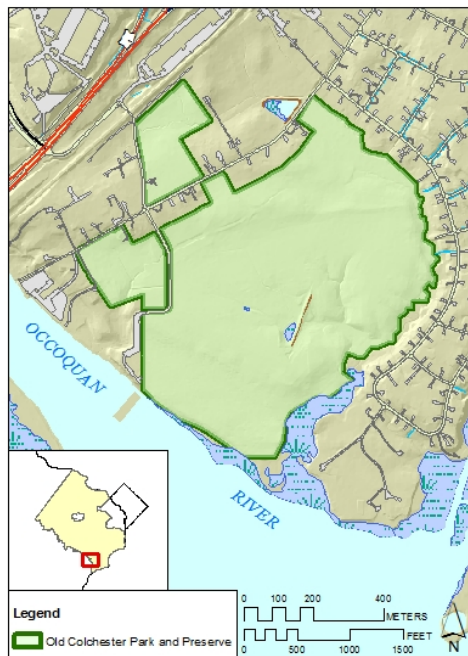


**Open House Parking at Mason Neck West Park
10418 Old Colchester Road**

OLD COLCHESTER PARK AND PRESERVE

The following is a reprint of the April contribution to the official blog of the FCPA by Megan Veness, the Field Director at the Old Colchester Park and Preserve.

[Old Colchester Park and Preserve](#) is in southern Fairfax County. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) acquired the 150-acre wooded area in 2006. It's a strategic location near the junction of the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers and along the main land route travelers used when passing through early Virginia. That location makes this area rich with history.



Archaeological investigations completed by the FCPA's Colchester Archaeological Research Team (C.A.R.T.) at Old Colchester Park during 2013 uncovered a stone foundation and a multitude of artifacts, which date to the later part of the 18th century.

The park soon will have [walking trails](#) with informational panels about the various natural and cultural resources that are there.

[CART has a blog](#) for weekly informational posts about Old Colchester Park artifacts, archaeology happenings and lab processing.

Colchester was established in 1753. It was a small shipping town, which moved tobacco and other goods from farms further upriver to markets along the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. There's a 3-D model of what Colchester looked like around 1820 that illustrates the area's structures such as barns, houses, warehouses and ordinaries. [You can see it through a virtual tour online.](#)

Blacksmiths, coopers, sailors, a vintner and tobacco inspectors lived and worked in the town during its heyday, but moved away by the 1840s when the port silted in and trade became more difficult.

Camp 'a Colchester, Amerique Campagne: Rochambeau 1782



During the Revolutionary War, French General Jean Baptiste de Rochambeau passed through the area of Colchester in 1781 and 1782, crossing the Occoquan River and passing through the town of Colchester. His map notes the Occoquan River and Colchester along with a camp north of the town. The map contains no scale, but structures were noted along the intersection of Furnace Road and Old Colchester Road. The town of Colchester

was well established by the last quarter of the 18th century, so the buildings could represent homes and other structures, which Rochambeau drew to mark the busy port town.

The nearby Enyedi property is a 1.45 acre tract of land on the north side of Old Colchester Road near the intersection of Old Colchester Road and Furnace Road. The Park Authority acquired it in 2012. Located on this property is a large metal barn, a house, and a small shed. The core of the house dates to the 1870s, and was constructed by a family named Clark. Archaeologists recovered various artifacts and 18th century concentrations of artifacts near the house and near the intersection of Furnace Road and Old Colchester Road.

In a place like Old Colchester Park or on the Enyedi property, archaeologists explore small sample areas in great detail. For example, they excavate a one-meter-by-one-meter area on hands and knees with the smallest of tools. When full meter-by-meter test units were opened in the Enyedi property, they discovered a stone wall. Each layer of the fill near the stone wall contained mortar, slate, window glass and brick fragments that indicated the material that was used to build the structure. The bottom of the feature fill was about a meter below the ground surface and exposed a charred structural timber there along with the stone wall. That led interpreters to note that this structure at the corner of Furnace Road and Old Colchester Road is similar to a structure still standing which was built as an ordinary for the Town of Colchester.

Wrought nails, glass and ceramics, including creamware, pearlware, tin glaze and agateware, were the majority of the artifacts recovered, and the deposit was dated to the 18th century. A large metal hinge was recovered near the bottom of the feature fill. This hinge is over a meter long and contained six hand wrought nails, some of them clinched at the end. A hinge of this size would be used for large doors like a

barn door or, possibly, a large cellar door to a bulkhead entrance.

This is where [archaeologists](#) put their discoveries in perspective and become interpreters. They have a map of the area from 1782 with a stone foundation marked on it. That foundation was capped and filled with layers, which date to the late 18th or early 19th century. The foundation's building was erected alongside a colonial port town with the same foundation construction as a standing historic building.

All of this leads to the conclusion that the stone wall is associated with another domestic dwelling that was used about 1753 to 1840. More information about the function and full size of the structure will need future archaeological research, as only two meters were exposed during a 2012 excavation by CART. A small excavation under the pines, at the intersection of Old Colchester Road and Furnace Road, has answered some questions and, of course, raised more questions about the historic happenings within southern colonial Fairfax County.



Artifacts of bone, ceramics, glass, and nails recovered during CART excavations in 2012.

PAST FOFA EVENTS

FOFA has been busy so far this year! Dr. Douglas Owsley enthralled a packed house at our January Membership Meeting at Frying Pan Park with case studies ranging from Easter Island to Waco Texas to the HL Hunley, as well as virtual autopsies of mummies and murder cases around the country.

In February, FOFA co-sponsored our Spring Symposium held at Gunston Hall on Recent Discoveries in the Chesapeake. Chris Sperling (our Fairfax County Archeologist) presented and updated the membership on the ongoing excavations at Colchester Park. ***Come out to the Open House on June 6, 2015 and discover Colchester for yourself!***

More recently FOFA has been supporting the staff of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch at various events around the county:

In April, we participated in the Emancipation Day celebration at Historic Huntley; Char Bah, the genealogist and historian who conducted research to help locate living descendants of the African-Americans buried at the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia, spoke on the enslaved African-Americans at Huntley. Bah's lecture will be rebroadcast on the county television channel at a later date.

EAGLES AND PIRATES!

FOFA, CRMPB and CART were well represented at this year's **Eagle Fest** on a chilly April 26th at Mason Neck State Park. (Thanks Megan Veness, Jean Cascardi, Jon Brisendine, Sallie Lyons, Charlie Balch, Steve Kimbel) In addition to learning about eagles and viewing a live reptile show, the visitors learned about the

ongoing archeological excavations at the Colchester Park and Preserve.

Strangely, a few pirates were also spotted at the eagle event...?



FOFA at Eagle Fest

Finally, on May 2nd a small corner of the Lake Fairfax Park in Reston became the Port of Colchester as FOFA set up at this year's **Pirate Fest**.

In addition to displaying copies of advertisements and account books from the John Glassford & Company store, maps showing the town and other information on CART, we continued our compass rose activity for the kids (what do Pirates and Archeologists have in common?)



FOFA and CRMPB at Pirate Fest



Pirate Paul Ansten

MEET THE 2014 FOFA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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Board Advisor/History Commission Liaison:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Sully Historic Site - *Cures from the Quarter* -
At the slave quarter learn how enslaved
African Americans maintained their health.
Reservations suggested. More information:
[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-
historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site)

September 12, 2015

Annual Virginia Indian Festival
Riverbend Park, Great Falls, VA

October 16-18, 2015

ASV Annual Meeting
Manassas, VA

November 6-8, 2015

CNEHA Annual Meeting
Fredericksburg, VA

FOFA NEEDS YOU!

FOFA is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that supports the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. We seek to further promote the understanding and appreciation of Fairfax County's cultural resources through archaeology and historic preservation. Among our other activities, FOFA can now offer support in the acquisition of needed field equipment, artifact storage systems, and computer software.

We need you to becoming a supporting member! Please fill out the attached membership application, and especially let us know areas that you can assist (i.e. website development and maintenance, fundraising, outreach, etc.).

Follow us on Facebook and on the internet at <http://fofaweb.org/>.



**FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY
AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Membership Application

Date: _____ New Member ___ Renewing Member
Annual Dues: Individual (\$15) ___ Family (\$20) ___

Title (Mr., Ms, etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Street Address City State Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Cell Phone Email Address

___ Check here if you prefer that your contact information NOT be published in a future directory of members.

Please indicate skills or background that you would be willing to share with the Friends:

___ IT ___ Fundraising ___ Public Relations ___ Events Planning ___ Graphics ___ Photography
___ Writing ___ Archaeology ___ Preservation ___ Other (please specify) _____

What ideas would you suggest for the enhancement and support of Fairfax County's archaeology and other cultural resources programs?

For Family memberships, please provide information for a second member (spouse, partner, or child):
(To provide information for more than two family members, please use multiple membership forms and attach them together.)

Title (Mr., Ms, etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Cell Phone Email Address

Please indicate skills and background that might be shared with the Friends:

___ IT ___ Fundraising ___ Public Relations ___ Events Planning ___ Graphics ___ Photography
___ Writing ___ Archaeology ___ Preservation ___ Other (please specify) _____

Please make checks payable to FOFA, and mail to:

Charles Balch 2922 Oakton Ridge Circle, Oakton, VA 22124

CBalch@aol.com

For Internal Use: Date Received: _____ Amount Received: _____