

THE DATUM POINT

Newsletter of the
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

September 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

It's been a long, hot summer, but kudos to those of you who have soldiered on in the field regardless. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of coming home drenched as well as dirty. Good digging weather should be right around the corner, with unusually bright prospects for interesting work.

Speaking of that, the County archaeology office has hired most of the professional team for McCue, and I expect that the work will get started soon. I have met most of the staff, and they seem like the kind of people we'll enjoy working with. It'll probably take a little while for them to be up, running, and ready to gainfully employ volunteers. As soon as they are, I'll let you know by email and provide the administrative and logistical information that you will need. If we don't have your email address and you want to be better tied in (i.e., if you get the Datum Point by snail mail), please let me know at jkelsey@cox.net. Don't forget that Mike Johnson will still be working at a prehistoric site off Westbrook Drive that may be more convenient to some of you than Mason Neck.

Let me summarize Chapter activities for the rest of the year. The September 8th will be our last regular Chapter meeting this year and will feature a talk on the battle of Chantilly. On October 9th, a number of us will be going on the Hunter Mill Road tour (October 9th). We won't have a meeting in November because of conflicts with the Gault trip and other activities. Our December meeting will be the traditional Chapter Christmas party. If you previously expressed an interest in the Hunter Mill Road tour, I will soon be asking you to confirm that. If there are more available seats after that, I'll advertise to the membership in general. As of now, we're close to having a full bus.

As we begin to think about the end of the year, it's not too soon to think about speakers, field trips, or other activities that we can line up for 2011. **It would be great to get suggestions from the membership at**

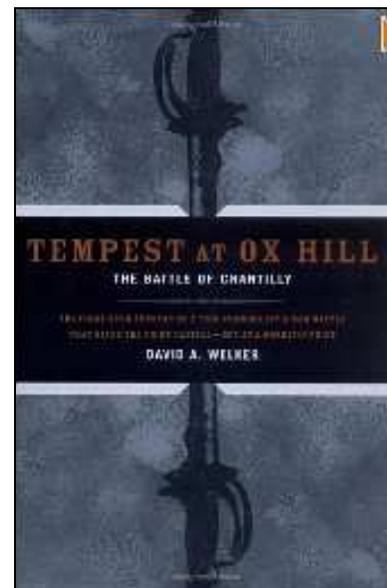
large – please send me your thoughts. If you can also provide point of contact information, that would be especially helpful.

Finally, I know that it's not convenient for many of you to come to Chapter meetings, and the work on the Beltway certainly doesn't help. I'll do my best to keep you informed through the Datum Point and emails. Please don't hesitate to let me know your feelings or wishes on items of upcoming business or on anything else that would make Chapter activities more interesting and meaningful to you.

September Speaker:

TEMPEST AT OX HILL: BATTLE OF CHANTILLY

David Welker



David Welker, local author of *Tempest at Ox Hill: Battle of Chantilly*, will speak about his research and book on the Civil War battle in Fairfax County.

ARCHAEOLOGY TV SHOW

By John Kelsey

If you've been following my emails, you know that I responded on behalf of the Chapter to a TV show concept that those who read it found troubling. As a result, I received an apologetic phone call from the series producer. She said that the original concept was badly misstated. Their intent is to highlight instances when amateurs discovered artifacts or sites which they brought to the attention of the professional community. Because of our concern with the earlier version, it makes sense to wait and see if they follow through with their new, much more positive focus. If they do, there are several projects in this area that we can offer for their consideration. I quote the revised concept below:

"We are producing a new non-fiction television series about archaeological discoveries across America. Our show is hosted by a professional/academic archaeologist and anthropologist who will meet with individuals who believe they've found objects or sites of historical, cultural or scientific importance. These scholars, both professors at major universities, will help participants and viewers better understand the significance of these discoveries, as well as the correct and ethical ways to approach potential sites and artifacts.

"We are interested in hearing from archaeologists, cultural experts (especially Native American scholars) and other professionals (e.g., historians, anthropologists, etc.) who have been contacted by lay members of the public about interesting discoveries or sites. If you or your colleagues are working with these individuals to investigate their claims, we would be interested in possibly filming this process, and having you discuss it with our archaeologist and anthropologist on camera. As this show is about archaeological and anthropological science, we are not interested in talking to individuals who have obtained artifacts

illegally or those who have been involved in the intentional looting or destruction of archaeological sites.

"Alternatively, please feel free to refer individuals with discoveries directly to our website

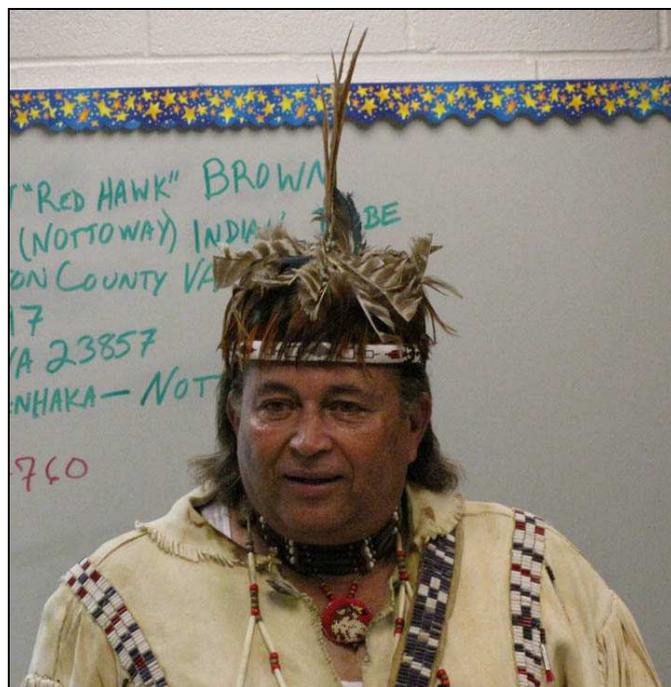
*<http://archaeologyshow.wordpress.com/>
for more information about the series and how to contact us.*

"In addition, we would also like to hear from members of the scientific community who have themselves recently made interesting and unusual discoveries."

CHEROENHAKA INDIAN TRIBE SUMMARY

Those NVC members that were not at the August meeting missed one the more spectacular presentations by Chief Walter "Red Hawk" Brown of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia.

Chief Red Hawk gave the presentation in full Indian regalia, including drum, rattle, and language. He gave the history of the people, their struggle through time to retain their identity, and pass on to the chapter the richness that is the Cheroenhaka!





A full classroom listened intently to the chief as he explained their recent recognition by the State of Virginia. He also recited several dozen tribal words that came from history including those from a list by Thomas Jefferson.



He presented tribal caps to Mike Johnson for his archaeological work, to Diane Schug-O'Neill for asking him to speak (the first time he has spoken to the ASV!), and to Bridget O'Neill because she remembered her Indian name he gave her, Little Deer (which I cannot remember, sorry, Chief!)



He also brought tribal reading material!

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone (H): _____

(W): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

NVC/Archeological Society of Virginia

2855 Annandale Rd.

Falls Church, VA 22042

Chapter members should join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.

asv-archeology.org

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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Northern Virginia Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

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