

## 17<sup>th</sup> Century site needs August volunteers

A 17th-Century Kent Island plantation is the site of a field project in middle August being run by the Maryland Historical Trust. Over the years, the Grieb site (18K83) has produced hundreds of artifacts but has never been professional excavated.

The staff and volunteers will be digging one- and two-meter units to create a detailed map of the site and to look for intact features. Work by Bruce Thompson, who will lead the excavation, has documented a cellar and three unidentified depressions. The August 13-19 dig will be trying to reveal what the depressions are and to examine the area near the cellar.

Because the site is in a rather remote location, on the northern bank of the Chester River, on-site camping space will be provided for volunteers, as well as on-site, no-cost meals. A 10-person tent will be available for volunteers without tents of their own. To deal with the expected heat, work will begin at 7 each morning and conclude in mid-afternoon.

Most of the volunteers will be needed between August 14 and 18. Space is limited and potential diggers should contact Bruce at 410-514-7663 or [bthompson@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:bthompson@mdp.state.md.us) for information or required registration.

## Keyser and much more at the Barton dig

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The main focus of the Western Maryland Chapter / Towson University field school at the Barton site June 14 - 22 was the area adjacent to the Keyser structure identified in 2006, between the back of the structure and the palisade that encircles the village.

But other areas were examined too. Units were placed in the Susquehannock area of the site in an effort to identify house patterns there as well. A unit from the 1995 ASM field session was re-opened to complete the excavation of mapped features and another two-meter deep test unit was placed adjacent to the one excavated in 2007.

The Keyser area revealed a few small basin-shaped features and extensions of sheet middens and burned surfaces delineated in units just east and west of the structure in 2006-2007. No large pit features were revealed and the edge of the palisade trench was located about three meters behind the structure.

The highlight of findings from the Keyser area was a charred grass mat that extended from the rear of the structure toward the palisade. A fired-surface was found in the central portion of the mat and it appears to have completely burned out to sharply defined edges. A great deal of large mammal bones (e.g., deer and elk) was recovered from the palisade trench.

The Susquehannock area of the site was subjected to more exploratory tests. Two two-meter squares found some post patterns, one of which was linear and contained palisade-sized posts within a narrow trench.

In the five-meter square from the 1995 ASM field session two sub-rectangular shallow middens were exposed. These are parallel to each other and contain a few post molds on the periphery. A Shultz incised rim sherd was found in one of the features, identifying it as Susquehannock. Not enough of the features were exposed to clearly identify their function, but they do suggest structural remains. Further work to identify more of the partially exposed features is planned for next year.

Finally, work on the new deep test unit took us partially through Level 11. The upper levels contained primarily Late Woodland Page occupations in a feature that covered much of the two-meter unit.

Excavations will continue on July 25-27 (Friday to Sunday) and all ASM members are welcome. We were just beginning to see an increase in debitage in Level 11, which represents the upper part of the Early Archaic period occupation. Only nine more levels to go before we hit the Pleistocene-age river bed.