

Archaeology: An Introduction



John Morgan

First day...
 Ordered that...
 Ordered that...



Practical Fielding Turner Spots!

Scale

London 1788



Archaeology Defined

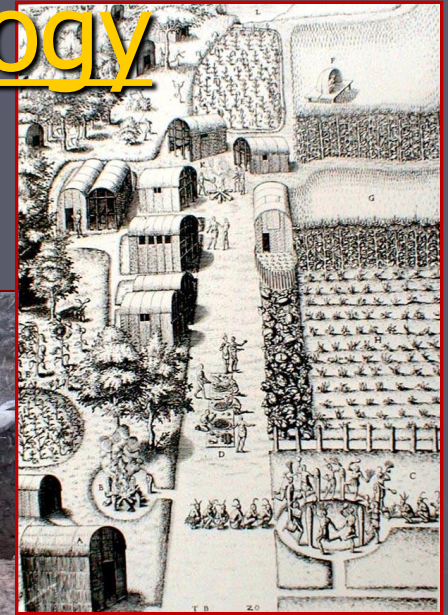
- ❖ **Archaeology is the science that studies human culture through the recovery, documentation, analysis and interpretation of material remains and environmental data including architecture, artifacts, features, biofacts, and landscapes.**



Why We Do Archaeology

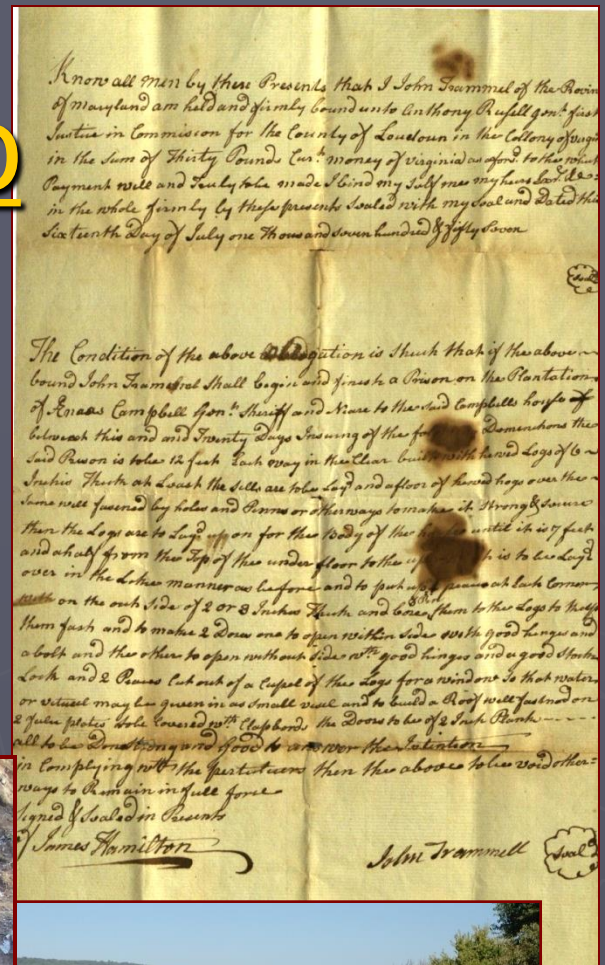
❖ The ultimate goal of the study of archaeology is to add to the understanding of World History. Each archaeologist should contribute in one way or another to the comprehension of our collective human history.

❖ Because of this, archaeologists have an awesome set of responsibilities, beginning with the responsibility to interpret the data they recover to the best of their abilities. They must comply with state, federal, and international laws. They must consider the effects of their interpretations on the people and places they study, and they must consider the environmental impact of the processes that they do on the world at large.



What We Do

- ❖ The archaeologist gathers information
 - by reading,
 - by survey,
 - by excavation,
 - by laboratory analysis, and
 - by oral history
- and then synthesizes that information into a story about the past. Archaeology is among the most exciting, difficult, and sometimes dull occupations on the planet.



What We Do

- ❖ It is important to remember that we never excavate without a reason. If a site is not endangered or there is nothing we could possibly learn from the site then it's best to leave it alone.
- ❖ Much of the archaeology conducted in the region is "salvage archaeology". That means it is done before the site is destroyed. Information is extracted and studied before it's too late.
- ❖ Also we conduct research oriented archaeology. This is done in order to answer specific questions about a site or a culture.



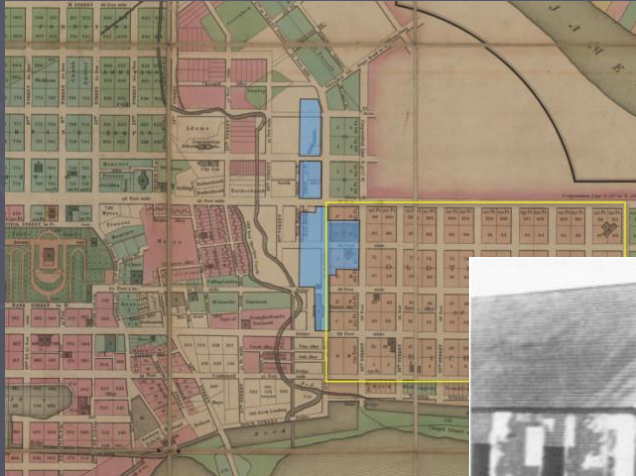
What We Do



★ Current sites on the Slave Trail ★ Proposed additional sites on the Slave Trail ■ Slave traders & auction houses, 1819 - 1866 (Kambourian Map)

SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in _____ in the County of *Louisa* State of *Virginia*, enumerated by me, on the *18th* day of *August*, 1860. *Fort Hall Ass't Marshal*

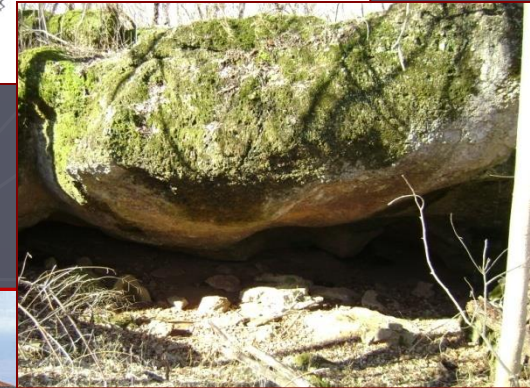
NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION					Deaf & dumb, blind, lame, or idiotic.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION					Deaf & dumb, blind, lame, or idiotic.
	Number of Males.	Age.	Sex.	Color.	Property (see list of values).			Number of Males.	Age.	Sex.	Color.	Property (see list of values).	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<i>Matha Lewis</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>			<i>Charles Lee</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>			<i>James West</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>3</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>4</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>3</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>5</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>4</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>5</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>9</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>11</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>10</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>			<i>Samuel West</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>2</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>3</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>16</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>5</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>17</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>6</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>18</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>7</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		
	<i>19</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>				<i>8</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>B</i>		



Fieldwork

- ❖ After the first research is done, archaeologists conduct a survey to look for archaeological sites. Archaeologists know that sites are more likely to be located in certain areas. For non-urban sites it's important to consider where you might want to live if you were setting up camp.

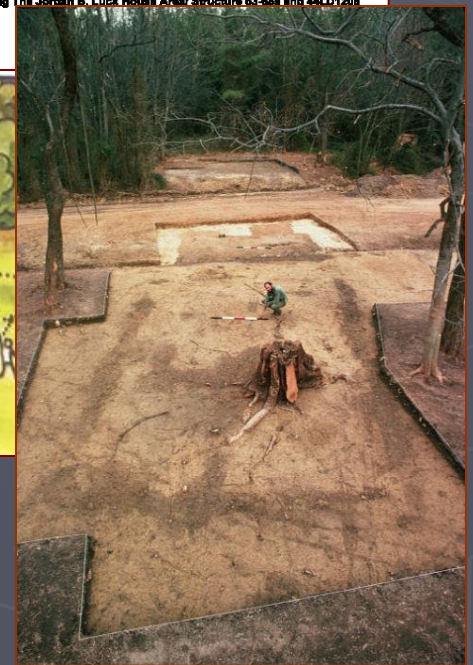
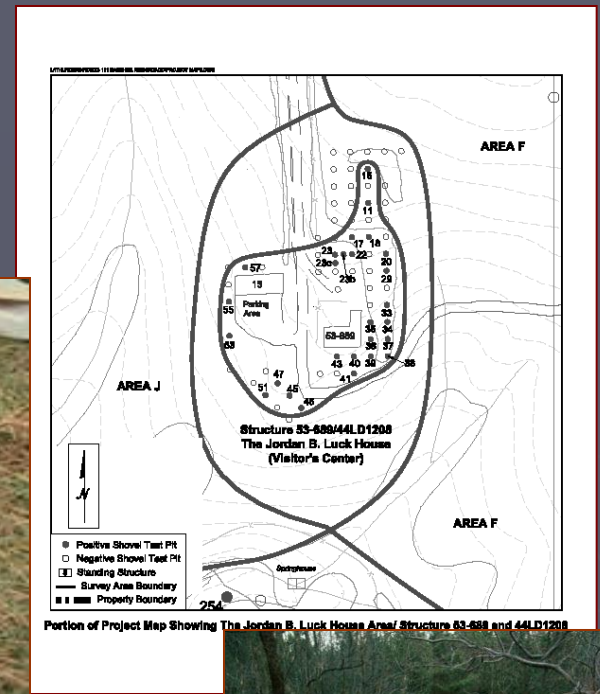
Would you want to be close to water?
Would you prefer to sleep on a sloping hillside or in a flat meadow?
Would you rather be at the top of a mountain where the winds blow the hardest or at the base of a mountain where you are sheltered from wind?
What other factors are important?



Fieldwork

❖ The first step in finding a site, after the proper research is complete, is to test in the area to identify soil anomalies, recover artifacts, or look for any other evidence that humans may have occupied the area in the past.

❖ Once a potentially significant site is located a grid must be established in order to properly test the site in a methodical fashion.



Fieldwork

- ❖ Once the grid is in place we choose areas to excavate where artifacts and other factors indicate “activity areas” or places where we may be able to recover important information about the inhabitants of the site.
- ❖ It is important to excavate very carefully and systematically in order to “read” the soil and so that we can be certain we know where the artifacts came from.
- ❖ It is important to keep track of the artifacts and where they come from. We bag them in a very specific way based on test unit and level.



Artifacts

❖ We then wash and identify the artifacts. Then conduct analysis of the artifacts by type, location, and any other factor that may help us understand the site.



Function	n	% of total
Activities	94	1.64
Architectural	1387	24.18
Arms & Ammunition	13	0.23
Clothing	67	1.17
Domestic	3273	57.05
Floral/Faunal	477	8.31
Furnishings	13	0.23
Miscellaneous	20	0.35
Personal	139	2.42
Prehistoric	16	0.28
Transportation	4	0.07
Unknown	215	3.75
Utilities	19	0.33

Interpretation & Reporting

This may be the most important and difficult part of the process. To actually interpret in writing what you have seen on the ground and in the lab is crucial to helping others see your work and ensure that the fieldwork was not done in vain. This can be in the form of a technical report or as a scholarly paper. The important part is to let others know what you have found.



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PHASE I ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE
CIRCA 140 ACRE ROUSE PROPERTY,
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

by

William M. Gardner, Kimberly A. Snyder and Gwen J. Hurst

May 2002

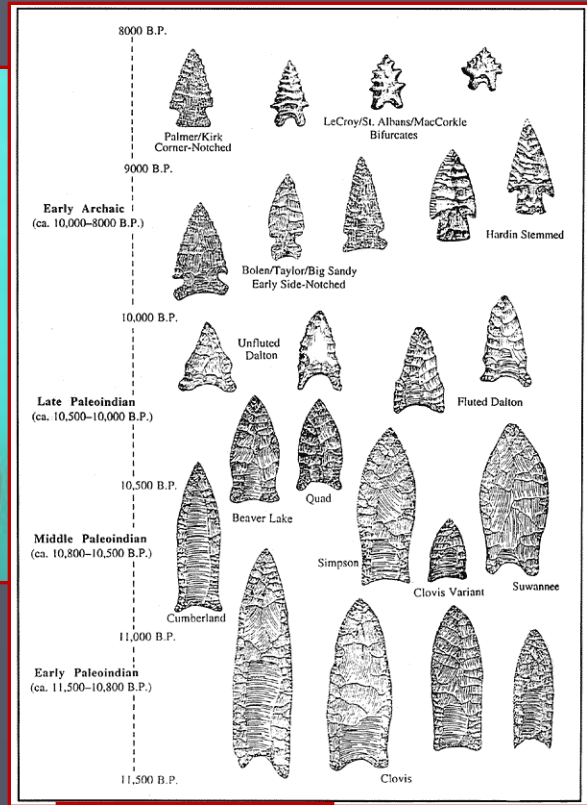
Inc.

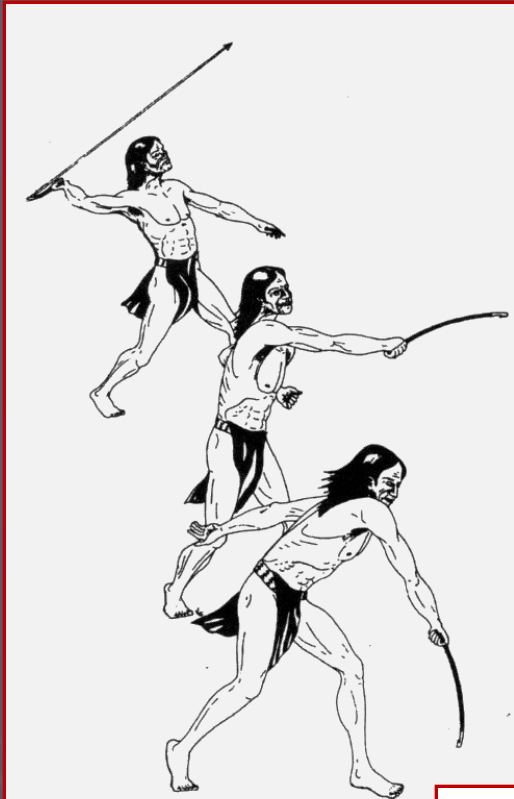
Conclusion



Condition of the above description is such that if the above
John Samuel shall begin and finish a Prison on the Plantation
of Ennas Campbell Esq: Sheriff and Nurse to the said Campbells hooves of
between this and and Twenty Days Insuing of the fourth of December the
said Prison is to be 12 feet each way in the Clear built with hewed Logs of 6
in Thick and 2 each the Sills are to be laid and a floor of hewed logs over the
will be joined by holes and Pins or other ways to make it strong & secure
the Logs are to be laid upon for the body of the house until it is 17 feet
thick from the top of the under floor to the top of the roof which is to be laid
in the Dutch manner as before and to push up the beams at each corner
on the out side of 2 or 3 Inches Thick and close them to the logs to keep
fast and to make 2 Doors one to open within side with good hinges and
the other to open without side with good hinges and a good Stock
and 2 Bars cut out of a Cappel of the Logs for a window so that water
will may be quen in a small vessel and to build a Roof well fastened on
plates well covered with Clapboards the Doors to be of 2 Inch Boards
the Donation and food to be as above the Plantation
in Complying with the particulers then the above to be void other-
wise to Remain in full force
& of local in Present
James Hamilton
1750







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