



TROWEL BYTES

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK, NORTHEAST REGION

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FPAN, NE Center
Flagler College
74 King St.
St. Augustine, FL
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Our Mission is

“...to promote and facilitate the conservation, study, and public understanding of Florida’s archaeological heritage through regional centers.”

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MIDDLEBURG CELEBRATES HISTORY

By Sarah Miller

When FPAN archaeologists responded to a request from Clay County to help save a brick chimney, we had no idea it would lead to a county-wide outreach-a-thon! Research Assistant Toni Wallace first visited the site in December. Using a solid probe she followed a buried trail of bricks from the park all the way down to the Black Creek boat dock. Clay County saved the feature from utility line disturbance, but our work was not yet done.

Center staff began working closely with new preservation partners: Clay County Archivist Claude Bass and volunteer Vishi Garig; Clay County Historical Commission members John Nelson, Kevin Hooper, Dr. Stone, and Pat Mueller; and master science teacher Cindy Cheatwood. The coalition planned an event to raise awareness of Ft. Heileman and solve the mystery of the brick trail at Main Street park.

On Saturday, April 24th roughly 130 area middle and high school students arrived for a day of history, archaeology, and outdoor education activities. Kevin Hooper, author of *The Early History of Clay County*, walked students around the Ft. Heileman site, a Seminole and Civil War fort. Students also visited the Middleburg museum, then received a history lesson on-site. Teachers and students gave back to the park by planting new trees. Kohl’s contributed \$1000.00 and sent more than a dozen employee volunteers. Winn-Dixie provided box lunches.

Last but not least, students helped excavate a trench that straddled the brick trail in order to answer research questions: when was this brick trail built? What was it used for? A pathway? A road for wagons to load and unload from the creek? A wall marking a boundary or edge of a yard? Students made interesting observations: no whole bricks were used to make the long feature, more like

cobbled together bricks to make an informal path. There was only one section of brick, not the two needed for a wagon trail, and the bricks extended only one course into the ground, so the feature was not architecturally substantial enough to be a wall or foundation.

Artifacts recovered from the site included one nineteenth-century porcelain pipe stem, a fragment of amethyst glass that dates from 1875-1914, whiteware (post-1830s), fencing wire and staples, and a Rockingham glazed pitcher spout. The glaze on the pitcher dates to 1840,

making it one of the oldest artifacts recovered that day.

After mapping, photographing, and making copious notes, archaeologists and volunteers filled in the trench and left the site as they found it. The brick trail was left intact for future students to study. Who knows? Maybe the same group will again join forces to raise awareness of Middleburg’s significant contribution to Florida history.

Sarah Miller has been the Director for FPAN’s Northeast Center since 2006.



Clay County students excavate a brick path at Ft. Heileman.

WORKSHOP IN THE WILDERNESS

The Center recently held its first teacher archaeology workshop of the year. FPAN partnered with National Park Service staff at Cumberland Island National Seashore to create a unique opportunity for teachers from Florida and Georgia.

The Center was excited to offer Project Archaeology training using a new curriculum book for third through fifth grades. *Investigating Shelter* teaches principles of



Teachers tour slave cabin ruins at Cumberland Island.

archaeology with hands-on activities and real site examples. The lessons meet standards for science, social studies, math, and language arts.

Attendees also enjoyed two rare opportunities. Saturday morning an NPS ranger demonstrated how tabby is made. On Sunday, the group visited standing chimneys from the Stafford slave cabins.

If you are interested in summer teacher workshops, you have not missed your chance. The Center is offering three more workshops this summer. Check our website for details.

“This is so fun! I want to come back next week.”
—Teacher Workshop Participant

SPOTLIGHT ON ST. AUGUSTINE DIGS

By Melissa Dezendorf

The City of St. Augustine’s Archaeology Division has spent the spring testing long-held beliefs about the city’s past. Excavations in the Plaza revealed early 17th-century settlement patterns along Cathedral Street. They also uncovered features from a series of structures three feet below the present day ground surface. Finally, they uncovered what appears to be the edge of the original Plaza. It was significantly smaller than the Plaza we see today.

As the digs in the Plaza ended, the Archaeology Division received a new project. The City’s Public Works department planned to redesign Aviles Street. They wanted to update utilities and change the streetscape. This project allowed City Archaeology to sample the archaeological deposits along the street. Digs on Aviles Street may confirm that it is the oldest continuously used street in North America.



City Archaeology documents historic road beds on Aviles St.

A unit on the north end of Aviles Street revealed Henry Flagler’s road improvements during the late 1800s. Another unit was placed at the corner of Aviles and Artillery. It uncovered at least 13 distinct road surfaces dating from the early 1600s to the present day. Ceramics were used to determine the date range. At the base of the unit were habitation features from the first few decades of St. Augustine’s initial settlement. Over the next few months the Archaeology Division will keep working on Aviles Street, finishing excavation and monitoring construction.

Even as the digs continue, the data recovered this field season has already changed our understanding of the past. It offers new insight into St. Augustine’s unique town plan and more than four centuries of occupation.

Melissa Dezendorf is the Archaeological Research Assistant for the City of St. Augustine.

DID YOU KNOW...



An artist's rendering of Ft. Heileman on Black Creek.

That Fort Heileman was never involved in a battle? The fort was built in 1835, at the onset of the Second Seminole War, and was closed in 1842 after the war ended, but it was never threatened. However, when Seminoles attacked plantations in nearby areas, people living there went to the fort for safety. It is possible that the fort did exactly what forts are supposed to do—keep people safe by preventing attacks.

FPAN TURNS FIVE!

On July 1, 2005 the Florida Department of State and the University of West Florida signed FPAN into existence. The anniversary gives us a chance to look back and see what we've accomplished so far.

Arguably the most important achievement is the presence of nearly 20 professionals in Florida to serve the public. Dr. William Lees serves as Executive Director and oversaw the hiring of each Center Director. In 2006 our own Sarah Miller was hired as Director for the Northeast, hosted by Flagler College. We settled into historic Markland Cottage in June of 2007.

The Center averages four outreach events per week. These events include teacher workshops, class visits, and festival activity tables. We also offer podcasts (www.virtualfloridafieldtrips.org), a blog (The Dirt on Public Archaeology), and talks for heritage and civic groups. In addition to outreach, we offer support to local governments. We spoke out to encourage Volusia County's purchase and survey of a Turnbull era site and Clay County's passage of a preservation ordinance. We also partnered with St. Johns County to produce the *Written in Stone: Historic Cemeteries* poster. Assistance to the Division of Historic Resources has normally

come in the form of facilitating trainings, such as Historical and Archaeological Resource Training (HART). This year we took our commitment to the state one step further by starting a site ID team. It aims to add sites to the Florida Master

Site File and follow up with people who contact us about sites of interest.

If you helped us last fall by filling out our online survey, THANK YOU! We listened. The Network has recently taken on strategic planning to guide us through the next five years. We

hope to keep doing the good deeds for which you praised us while addressing underserved areas. Education and outreach prove organic in our heritage-rich environment, but we recognize the need to expand our service to local and county governments and provide more consistent programming across the state.

We look forward to five more years of serving you and collaborating with our colleagues around the state!



Upcoming Programs and Events

May 29: Florida Humanities Council Program

Topic: Fantastic Archaeology: Florida Frauds, Myths, & Mysteries
 Speaker: Sarah Miller
 Time & Place: 10-11am at Anderson-Price Memorial Building (Ormond Beach)

June 5: Archaeology Goes to Camp! Workshop

Time & Place: 9am-5pm at Markland House at Flagler College (St. Augustine)

June 10: Layers of Life at Fort Mose

Time & Place: 6-7pm at Fort Mose Historical State Park

June 17: Mandarin Museum Lecture

Topic: Archaeology Along the St. Johns River
 Speaker: Sarah Miller
 Time & Place: 7pm at Mandarin Museum (Jacksonville)

June 29: Underwater Archaeology Program for Teens

Time & Place: 1-2pm at Melrose Library (Putnam County)

July 15-16: Coquina Queries Teacher Workshop

Time & Place: 9am-5pm at Markland House at Flagler College (St. Augustine)

July 20: Underwater Archaeology Program for Kids

Time & Place: 4:30-5:30pm at Bostwick Library (Putnam County)

July 22: Underwater Archaeology Program for Kids

Time & Place: 3:30-4:30pm at Palatka Library (Putnam County)

July 29-30: Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter Teacher Workshop

Time & Place: 9am-5pm at Markland House at Flagler College (St. Augustine)

Please visit our website, www.flpublicarchaeology.org, Northeast Region, for more information on upcoming events.



Participants investigate features and artifacts related to a Poplar Forest slave cabin during a teacher workshop.

Summer Camps

June 14-18 and 21-25:
 City of St. Augustine/FPAN Archaeology Camp

June 21-25: Eco Adventures Camp
 Ravine Gardens State Park (Palatka)

June 21-25 and 28-July 2:
 River Camp
 Walter Jones Historical Park

Contact us

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Northeast Center Advisory Board

- Dr. Kathleen Deagan, Historic St. Augustine Foundation/ St Augustine Research institute
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