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Society for Historical Archaeology 2007 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology

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**Society for Historical Archaeology
2007 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology
Old World/New World: Culture in Transformation.
Williamsburg, Virginia, January 10-14, 2007.**



Conference theme: Central to the theme of the 2007 SHA conference in Williamsburg/Jamestown, Virginia, is the historical archaeology of Jamestown in the context of the emerging 16th and 17th century Atlantic World. The program will feature a plenary session focusing on the archaeology of the early decades of European expansion along the Atlantic rim, and what it reveals of the process of cultural change among Europeans, Africans and native peoples. Concurrent sessions are open to presentations on regional or temporal variations on the plenary theme and other individual research projects that incorporate comparative and interdisciplinary research. Innovative use of advanced technology will be a subtheme throughout.

Symposia and a Forum focusing on topics of African diaspora archaeology include:

Symposium: *African Autonomy in the Atlantic World*. Organizer and Chair: A. Kowal. Participants: M. Young; E. Yates; J. Eberwine; J. McCarthy; A. Kowal; L. Gijanto; M. Wood; D. Sanford. Thursday, Jan. 11, afternoon schedule.

Forum: *Research Designs for Atlantic Africa and African Diaspora Archaeologies*. Organizer and Moderator: C. Fennell. Participants: W. Battle-Baptiste; K. Deetz; K. Kelly; C. McDavid; P. Mullins; A. Ogundiran; C. Schrire. Friday, Jan. 12, morning schedule.

Symposium: *Servitude, Slavery, and the Social Dynamics of the Early Chesapeake: Archaeological Perspectives*. Organizer and Chair: F. Neiman. Participants: F. Neiman; J. Galle; L. Nelson, J. Galle and F. Neiman. Friday, Jan. 12, morning schedule.

Symposium: *African Diaspora Archaeology in the Chesapeake: Current Trends and New Perspectives*. Organizer and Chair: D. Brown and T. Harpole. Participants: G. Fesler; D. Brown; T. Harpole; S. Kern; L. Galke; M. Reeves; K.

Tinkham; K. Deetz; D. Sayers; E. Jordan. Friday, Jan. 12, afternoon schedule.

Symposium: *The African Diaspora in Global Perspective*. Organizer and Chair: S. Croucher. Participants: F. Bugarin; K. Kelly; L. Wilson; S. Croucher; A. Laure; J. Delle; T. Tetrault; C. Fennell; H. MacLeod-Leslie; A. Carvalho; D. Hicks; C. McDavid. Saturday, Jan. 13, morning schedule.

Symposium: *New Philadelphia: Race and Commerce on the Illinois Frontier*. Organizer and Chair: P. Shackel, T. Martin and C. Fennell. Participants: P. Shackel; M. Hargrave and C. Fennell; C. Valvano; E. Helton; T. Martin and C. Martin; C. Christman; C. King; A. Agbe-Davies. Sunday, Jan. 14, morning schedule.

General Session: *Expanding the African Diaspora*. Organizer and Chair: N. Hamilton. Participants: S. Croucher; N. Norman; D. Miller, N. Norman and J. Monroe; R. Croff; W. Duncan; N. Hamilton, R. Sanford, R. Talbot-Ross and M. Rowe; H. MacLeod-Leslie/ D. Palmer; C. Duke and R. Goodwin. Sunday, Jan. 14, morning schedule.

Abstracts:

Jan. 11, 2007, Symposium entitled *African Autonomy in the Atlantic World*: Whether enslaved or not, people of African descent faced difficulties in attaining autonomy in historic times, which continues in the present. External pressures impinged on many African descendants who managed through cultural developments and continuities to maintain their cultural identities. Several were not independent, although their communities thrived in the face of slavery, persecution, and prejudice. These Africans wielded their power through their kinship practices, ideology, culinary traditions, burial practices, and landscape and settlement patterns. Archaeology and Anthropology in conjunction with other disciplines enlighten modern researchers on the experience of African descendants throughout the Atlantic world, and the levels of autonomy they were and are capable of achieving despite the pressures they faced.

Jan. 12, 2007, Symposium entitled *African Diaspora Archaeology in the Chesapeake: Current Trends and New Perspectives*: African Diaspora archaeology

in the Chesapeake region has evolved over the past 35 years from a peripheral element of historical archaeology to one of the central components of our field. The recent development of new research tools that let archaeologists compare materials between sites (such as the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery) also allow closer scrutiny within sites. The compilation of African Diaspora data across the Chesapeake has brought greater meaning and analytical possibilities to single site assemblages that reflect differences over time and varying uses within changing plantation and agricultural systems. In this session we have brought together a group of archaeologists actively excavating African Diaspora sites in the Chesapeake. Some of this work has been hidden in the gray literature, some of the more well-known sites are due for a thorough reanalysis, and some of the sites are fresh out of the ground.

Jan. 12, 2007, Forum entitled *Research Designs for Atlantic Africa and African Diaspora Archaeologies*: This forum will focus on theoretical constructs and interpretative frameworks employed in African diaspora archaeology projects and comparative studies in the historical archaeology of sites in Africa. Subjects for discussion include questions such as the following: What theories of agency and process have proven most useful in interpreting archaeological data from such sites? How are researchers connecting theoretical issues to the material culture they are interpreting? Which interpretative frameworks have proven successful in public archaeology and cultural heritage projects? In formulating interpretations of available data, how are researchers dealing with evidentiary gaps created by the past impacts of colonialism and slavery? To what degree have approaches based on processualism, practice theory, feminist theory, critical theory, neo-Marxist theories, theories of ethnicity and racialization, or critical race theory resulted in persuasive accounts of past dynamics? Have particular concepts, such as creolization, resistance, double-consciousness, ethnogenesis, globalization, or world systems, proven useful?

Jan. 13, 2007, Symposium entitled *The African Diaspora in Global Perspective*: The African Diaspora is vast, and its archaeological study includes investigations from widely-dispersed geographical locations, from Africa itself to the many regions of the world which became home to diasporic African populations. Within this scope, the experiences of those involved in, and affected by, the diasporic process varied widely. This session brings papers together that reflect

the global reach of this topic of enquiry, including those from East and West Africa, Canada and Latin America. This range allows for reflection upon two main themes. Firstly, the question of what unites these diverse studies? Which points provide useful comparisons between disparate areas? Secondly, the question of what makes each study unique within its local context, highlighting the variety in this field. These topics will be actively explored throughout the session, which takes a truly global approach to an expanding field.

Jan. 14, 2007, Symposium entitled *New Philadelphia: Race and Commerce on the Illinois Frontier*: Founded by a freed African American, New Philadelphia existed on the Illinois Frontier as a small farming center between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Extensive research about Free Frank McWorter and his family has been gathered and published by historians. The recent archaeology program provides different insights into the development and eventual demise of the community. Archaeology, oral histories, and the examination of tax records and census data provide a picture of a dynamic community that succumbed to shifting markets, and the rerouting of roads and railroad lines. By 1930 the town disappeared from the prairie landscape.