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Jillian Galle
Monticello, jgalle@monticello.org

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The Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery

By Jillian Galle



2007 has been a busy year for the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS). The archive, which facilitates the archaeological study of slave societies that evolved in the Atlantic World, gives scholars easy internet access to detailed, comparable data from slave-quarter sites across the Chesapeake and Caribbean regions. By using a single set of classification and measurement protocols, the archive makes possible systematic, quantitative comparisons among assemblages from multiple sites. DAACS is also committed to developing analytical methods and innovative research programs to decipher the historical meaning of archaeological evidence.

Since January, archaeological data and historical background information from two slave quarter sites in Maryland, seven sites on Jamaica and two sites on Nevis have been made available to researchers and the public through <http://www.daacs.org>. These 11 sites include work conducted by Barry Higman at Montpelier Plantation in St. James Parish, Jamaica as well as Douglas Armstrong's excavations at Seville Plantation, in St. Ann, Jamaica. These sites join twenty-one excavated quarter sites from Virginia. DAACS currently contains detailed, standardized data on over 1 million artifacts and 13,000 archaeological contexts from 32 excavated slave-quarter sites in the Chesapeake and Caribbean regions.

In 2008, DAACS turns its attention to South Carolina. Please watch for the launch of data from Leland Ferguson's excavations at Middleburg Plantation in early 2008. Data from Vaughan and Curriboo Plantations will be made available in late 2008. Addition sites from Virginia and Jamaica will also be launched in 2008. Please contact Jillian Galle (jgalle@monticello.org) if you would like to contribute sites or if you would like to consider using the DAACS database for your collections.

Short-Term Fellowships and Travel Grants for the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, which owns and operates Thomas Jefferson's historic home at Monticello, is pleased to announce a program of short-term residential fellowships and travel grants at its International Center for Jefferson Studies open to all scholars working on Jefferson projects. Several of these fellowships are reserved for archaeologists

whose work focuses on issues of slavery in the greater Chesapeake region, the Carolinas, and the Caribbean and whose work would benefit from the use of the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery. For more information on the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery, please see <http://www.daacs.org>. Foreign nationals are particularly encouraged to apply.

Short-term fellowships are awarded for periods of up to four months to doctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars from any country. Awards carry a monthly stipend of \$1,500 for United States and Canadian fellows plus pre-approved round-trip airfare, and \$2,000 for overseas fellows plus airfare. Residential accommodation may be available on a limited basis. Fellows are expected to be in residence at the Center during the course of the fellowship, and no awards are made for work carried on elsewhere. Fellows have access to Monticello's expert staff and research holdings as well as to the extensive resources of the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia. ICJS/DAACS fellows will be provided with workspace as well as access to computers and Archive staff. Applicants should submit four copies of (1) a succinct description of the research project, including how Archive data will be used (500-words), and (2) a curriculum vitae. In addition, please arrange for three references to be sent directly to the Center at the address below.

Deadline for Applications: April 1, 2008. Applications and references should be addressed to the Fellowship Committee, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello, Post Office Box 316, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902, USA, Attention: Jillian Galle.

Announcement of awards will be made no later than May 1, 2008. Application questions should be addressed to Jillian Galle, Project Manager, The Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery, 434-984-9873. The fellowship and grants program is underwritten by endowments established for this purpose by the Batten Foundation and First Union National Bank of Virginia, and by a generous grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation.