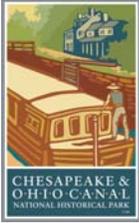


Chesapeake and Ohio Canal  
National Historical Park:  
Archeology in the Upper  
Segment, Hancock to  
Cumberland  
2008-2010

The National Park Service and  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.



# Part I. Indians along the Potomac

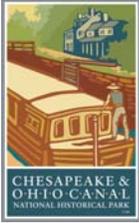




# 9,000 Years of Camping



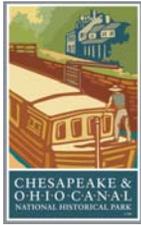
Indians have been camping along the Potomac River for 13,000 years. Many camp sites are present all along the river, some on high bluffs and some on low-lying terraces. The oldest artifacts found during the current project are around 9,000 years old. This is a Savannah River spearpoint used around 4500 to 4200 years ago.



# 9,000 Years of Camping



This old private collection of Indian artifacts from the Oldtown area includes three “bifurcate” spear points or knives, with a split base, used between 9,000 and 8,000 years ago. Many people lived in the Appalachian Mountains at that time because the climate was warm and dry.

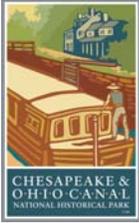


# Stratigraphy



- What makes the archeology of the park especially exciting is the number of “stratified” sites
- Along the river, sites are buried ever deeper over time by silt and sand
- When a site has layers of different dates, we can learn much more from it about people in the past
- This site near Tuscarora Creek has nearly 10,000 years of deposits





# The 999 Levee Site



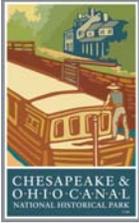
One of the stratified sites in the upper segment is the 999 Levee Site near Oldtown, where one large test unit was dug in 2010



## Excavating pottery from a deep level at the 999 Levy Site



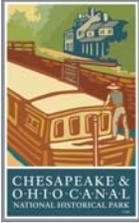
The 999 Levy Site has about 4 feet of deposits and the lowest layer was radiocarbon dated to around 1200 BC



# Artifacts from the 999 Levy Site, Ca. 1200 BC



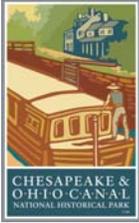
These artifacts date to the Early Woodland Period and they more closely resemble material from the Ohio Valley than artifacts from the lower Potomac.



# The Frog Run Site

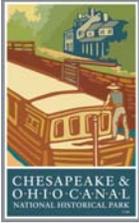


- In 2010, archeologists excavated one large test unit on the Frog Run Site
- The unit came down on a trash midden dating to 1100 to 1200 AD, in the Late Woodland period
- A large amount of pottery, some animal bone, and much charcoal were found
- The pottery resembles artifacts from West Virginia and the upper Ohio Valley
- Beneath the Late Woodland midden was a sterile zone, and beneath that was a layer full of charcoal and fire-cracked rock dating to around 800 BC



# Pottery from Frog Run, AD 1100-1250

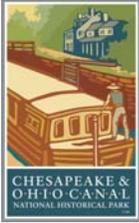




# Shawnee Oldfields

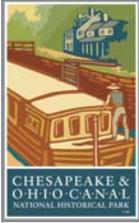


Shawnee Oldfields is a large archeological site discovered by amateurs in the 1950s. Recent excavations show that it dates mainly to the 1500s AD, when there was a village of the Luray Culture on the site. Actually there were two villages, occupied sequentially. The site was also used in earlier periods.



# Artifacts from a Pit at Shawnee Oldfields

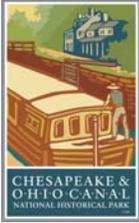




# Artifacts from a Pit at Shawnee Oldfields



Some of the same material as in the previous image, after cleaning



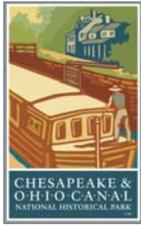
# Stone Arrowheads from Shawnee Oldfields





# Stone, Bone, and Ceramic Artifacts from a Trash Midden at Shawnee Oldfields

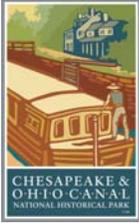




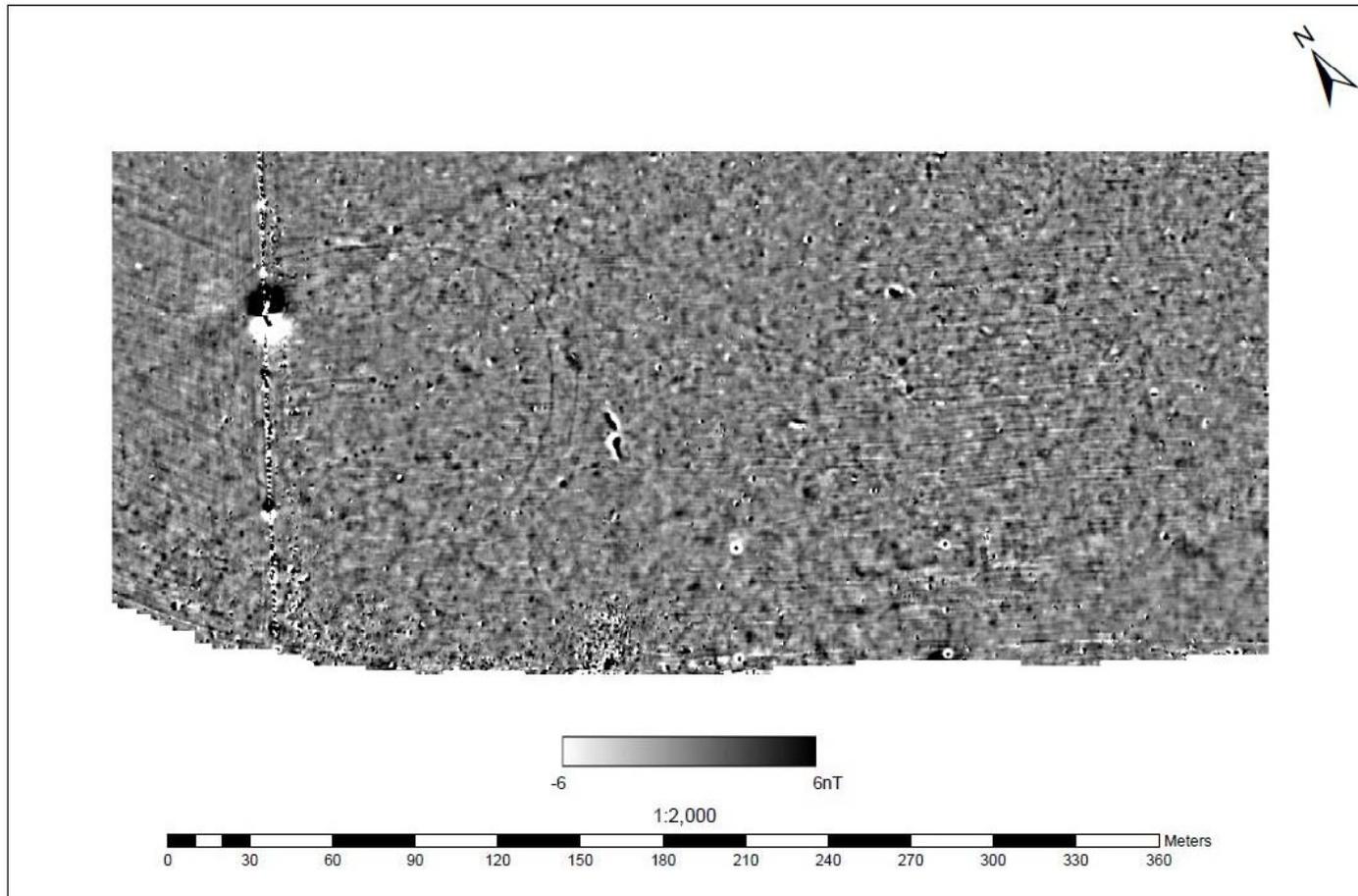
# Magnetometry at Shawnee Oldfields



Magnetometry means measuring minute variations in the earth's magnetic field. Because burning and other human activities leave a magnetic signature, magnetometry can be used to find and map archeological sites. Here Dr. Timothy Horsley used a sensitive magnetometer to map features at Shawnee Oldfields.

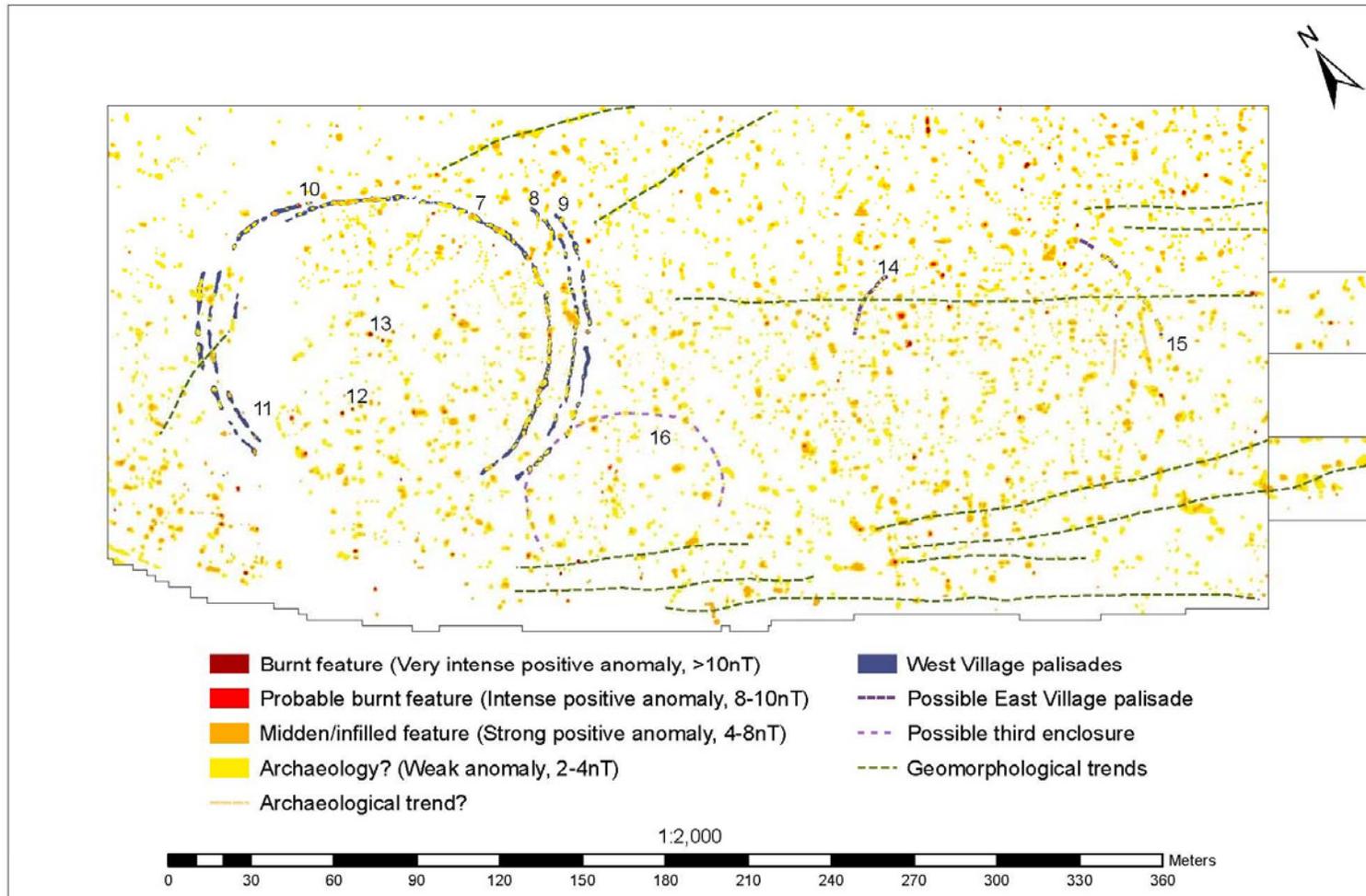


# Raw Magnetometry Data From Shawnee Oldfields





# Magnetometry Map of Shawnee Oldfields



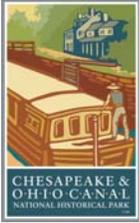




# Part III. Searching for Thomas Cresap's Frontier Fort



Cresap's Fort on a 1747 Map

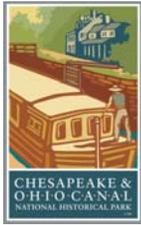


# Thomas Cresap: Land Agent, Frontiersman, Thug



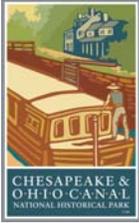
The Cresap's Fort Site

- Thomas Cresap was born in England in 1694 and came to Maryland in 1709
- He worked as an agent for the Calvert family in their boundary dispute with the Penns, was accused of murder and spent two years in jail in Philadelphia
- He was freed after a truce in 1738 and moved west settling first on Antietam Creek and then, by 1744, at Oldtown
- His frontier blockhouse became a key post on the Maryland frontier
- During the French and Indian War (1754 to 1763) his home became a refuge for many of his neighbors and his sons organized companies of Rangers
- He died in 1790 at the age of 96



## George Washington's Journal, 1747

*Wednesday 23d. Rain'd till about two oClock & Clear'd when we were agreeably surpris'd at the sight of thirty odd Indians coming from War with only one Scalp. We had some Liquor with us of which we gave them Part it elevating there Spirits put them in the Humour of Dauncing of whom we had a War Daunce. There Manner of Dauncing is as follows Viz. They clear a Large Circle & make a great Fire in the Middle then seats themselves around it the Speaker makes a grand Speech telling them in what Manner they are to Daunce after he has finish'd the best Dauncer Jumps up as one awaked out of a Sleep & Runs & Jumps about the Ring in a most comicle Manner he is followd by the Rest then begins there Musicians to Play the Musick is a Pot half of Water with a Deerskin Stretched over it as tight as it can & a goard with some Shott in it to Rattle & a Piece of an horses Tail tied to it to make it look fine the one keeps Rattling and the other Drumming all the While the others is Dauncing.*



## From the Journal of a British Office with Braddock's Expedition, 1754



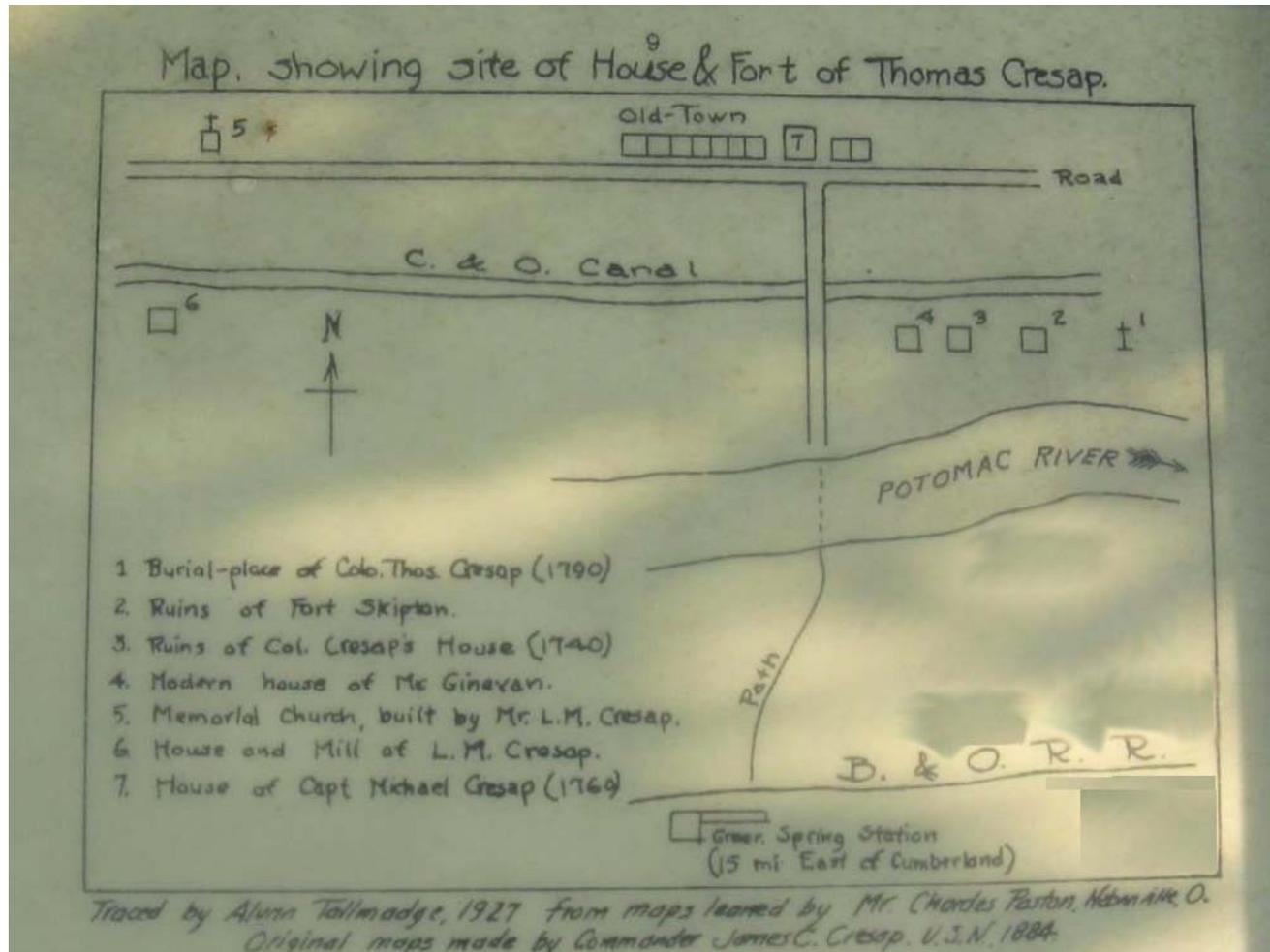
*May 8th. Ferried over the River into Maryland; and March'd to Mr. Jackson's, 8 Miles from Mr. Coxs's where we found a Maryland Company encamped in a fine Situation on the Banks of the Potomack; with clear'd ground about it; there lives Colonel Cressop, a Rattle Snake, Colonel and a D – d Rascal; calls himself a Frontiersman, being nearest the Ohio; he had a summons sometimes since from the French to retire from his Settlement, which they claim as their property, but he refused it like a man of Spirit; This place is the Track of Indian Warriours, when going to War, either to the No'ward, or So'ward. He hath built a little Fort round his House, and is resolved to keep his Ground. We got plenty of Provisions. &ca. General arrived with Captains Orme and Morris, with Secretary Shirley and a Company of light Horse for his Guard, under the Command of Capt. Stewart, the General lay at the Colonels*

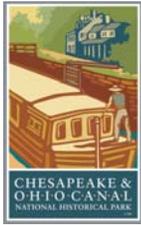






# What were Said to be Remains of the Fort were Documented in 1884





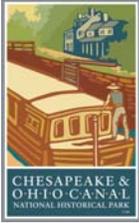
## Finding the Fort



But the Fort was actually found more than a hundred yards away from the possible grave site, on a low hill in a pasture. This site had been suggested as the fort's location by collectors in the 1960s.

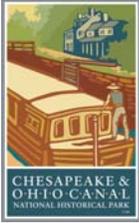
The location was verified by archeological excavation in 2009.





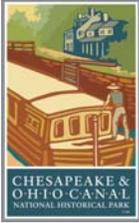
# Artifacts from the Cresap's Fort Site: Eighteenth-Century Ceramics





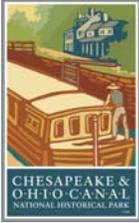
## Artifacts from the Cresap's Fort Site: Gunflints and Musket Balls





# Artifacts from the Cresap's Fort Site: Nails, Daub, and Window Glass





# Artifacts from the Cresap's Fort Site: Eighteenth-Century Bottle Glass





# Artifacts from the Cresap's Fort Site: A Paste "Gemstone" from a Buckle or Cufflink





## Searching for Canal Workers at Paw Paw



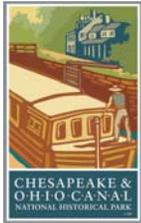
- Throughout the archeological survey of the park, one goal has been to find a camp of the Irish workers who built the canal. None has been found.
- Probably this is because the laborers had very few belongings and their shacks were very crude, leaving little for archeologists to find.
- At Paw Paw, near the tunnel, some evidence was found of canal building
- Paw Paw was the site of one of the worst riots against the Canal Company by the workers, in which the workers threatened to blow up the tunnel if they were not paid.



# Brick Kilns



One of the discoveries at Paw Paw was brick kilns in which bricks were made for lining the inside of the tunnel

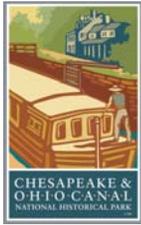


# A Workshop or Warehouse



At Paw Paw archeologists also uncovered this brick and stone foundation, which is more than 80 feet long. It is at the same depth as the brick kilns, so dates to when the canal was built. It was probably a workshop or warehouse used during construction.

Only two small domestic artifacts were found in this test unit, which is more evidence that the canal workers had very few personal belongings.



# Moving On



The archeological survey of the upper segment took three years to complete, but it represents only the beginning of archeological exploration. Only a tiny amount of excavation has been done on most sites, and little is known about them. Some of these sites could keep an archeologist busy for decades.