

# Archaeology at Old St. Stephens

May 23, 2010 Newsletter

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## Week 1 – Field School

This first week we concentrated on the east wall of the “rental” building along the east property line. Probing suggested it was shallow and it was. It is about 2 ft wide and similar to the wall we worked on last summer. However, it has some surprises. We found several intermediate east-west walls of soft limestone. Also we discovered a feature that extends over a meter into what may be a half-cellar. Near the base is a dense concentration of artifacts, primarily ceramics with a little glass. A majority of these are creamware, the earliest type we have on the site. Among other things we found a brass cork screw and a bale seal. We have only carried two units into this feature, but we will begin more this week. It should be exciting, but excavating a half cellar will definitely extend the project...maybe by years. Perhaps we are in the cellar of a store c. 1818 where goods were stored. Broken ceramics were just dumped on the ground. The sherds are large.



Week One Crew

Stone wall along the east property line looking south  
(Note the excavation into the deep feature right of the wall)

Our crew will be down two members this week. We sure could use additional volunteers. We will be working Monday through Friday for the next three weeks. If you can spare a day or two to help dig or work in the lab please come on out.



Examining some of the artifacts from the deep feature along the east wall

### **T-Shirts**

Shirts are now available for purchase, \$15 each plus \$3.50 for shipping. The shirts have the St. Stephens logo on the front and the map of Old St. Stephens draw by Mary Welch in 1899 on the back. She lived in the town as a girl in the 1830s. The map was drawn at the centennial celebration in St. Stephens commemorating the first raising of the American flag over the region in 1799. You can come by and pick up a shirt at the lab (no shipping cost) or we will be glad to send you one. Our gray shirts may be purchased by the general public, but we reserve our sage green shirts only for folks that have volunteered. They have the designation "VOLUNTEER" on them. These are quality shirts available in S, M, Lg, and ExLg. Please state size. You may send checks to me (no cash please), but please make them out to the St. Stephens Historical Commission. Tab them for the size and type shirt you want. Proceeds go to help support the archaeology program at Old St. Stephens.