

Archaeology at Old St. Stephens

June 6, 2010 Newsletter

by George Shorter RPA, Archaeologist

Week 2 – Field School

During Week 3 we continued to focus on the wall along the east property line of the Globe//Chamberlain site. We completed investigating the deep deposits adjacent to the west side of the East Wall and moved on to the southeast corner of the building and the south wall. Both were constructed using a builder's trench, 4-5 ft wide, inside the building footprint. Units into the trench show that soft limestone rubble from the construction is deposited along the wall about 30 cm deep. Although we found a few artifacts, these trenches do not appear to have the concentrations of artifacts found to the north. Rachel Kangas did uncover a pig's skull.



Rachael Kangas working on pig skull along the south wall

As we uncovered the south wall some units extended into the yard between the slaves' house and the wall. A dark midden extends about 20 cm below the surface. It contains a wider range of artifacts than we encountered in the features adjacent to the east wall. Rachel Phelps worked in this area. Two of her most interesting finds she made include a sugar nipper and a coin-silver spoon with a "D" monogram.

This week, our last, we plan to extend our excavation one more meter to the west joining up with last year's units. We will also focus on a couple of units to uncover the northeast corner of the building. Everyone will get an opportunity to complete at least one unit in the slaves' yard. Everyone will get to do some time in the lab. Mary Flentge will continue her work in the lab with the help of David White. I'll have the final report on the work of the field school crew and volunteers in July. I can tell you now that we made great progress and moved the research significantly forward. Thanks to everyone for your efforts and support. Thanks especially to Jim Long and Mike Breedlove.



Rachel Phelps working in the Slaves' yard



Sugar nippers



Monogrammed silver spoon

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.

George Shorter
6989 Bay Road
Mobile, Alabama 36605
(251.709.7369)