

1996 Field Season Summary

There were 11 students enrolled this year and three intermittent volunteers, John Deeton, Dick Helm (ASV), and Kurt Hiedelburg. Bill Gordon and Courtney Morano served as crew chiefs. We opened three plowzone squares south of the Randolph kitchen foundation at 170N 150E, 167.5N 150E, and 165N 150E. These were trowelled clean and datum depths were taken. The plowzone was less than one foot (31 cm) deep. Cultural material is still present in the soil below the plowzone, there are several large pieces of 18th century wine bottles embedded in the soil. The soil below the plowzone is part of the large trash midden/fills surrounding the Randolph building. There was a small amorphous mortar pocket **Feature 96-3** in this area. This was probably left from the robbing of the Randolph kitchen walls.

The goal for the 1996 field season were to define the perimeters of the large feature (Feature 95-18) intruding on the western end of the Thomas Harris house. We began by removing the landscaping/occupation layers and features west and south of the Randolph Kitchen. There were three previously excavated post holes in this area (Feature numbers unknown at this time). A fourth post, **Feature 96-1** had been previously excavated and filled in. A 1993 penny was found at the bottom of the fill. **Feature 95-5** was possibly a scaffolding post. It was located right next to the southwest corner of the robbers trench for the kitchen. **Feature 96-10** was a post hole that appears to be intruded by or adjacent to the robbed garden wall **Feature 91-27**. The fill in Feature 96-10 was very similar to the fill in Feature 91-27. **Feature 96-7** was a mortar and brick flecked midden west of the garden wall left when the wall was robbed of its bricks. The kitchen porch footing **Feature 91-12** and its robbers trench **Feature 96-2** were excavated.

There is a large landscaping or occupation layer, **Feature 96-4** on the western exterior of the Randolph kitchen. This fill is approximately 22 centimeters thick. The majority of the artifacts are 18th century. There are a few early 19th century artifacts: 1 pearlware sherd, cut nails, chinese porcelain.

South of the Randolph kitchen, 160N 157.5E, is a cluster of posts in subsoil. **Feature 89-126** hole and **Feature 89-127** mold is actually a double set post. The second mold was not discovered until the excavation of the hole. Window glass and bones came out of the mold. Slipware, creamware, Chinese porcelain and "rosso antico" type stoneware came out of the hole. **Feature 89-132** post and mold fill and **Feature 89-134** hole is mapped as a double post and hole, however this may be due to the fact that the remains of the cedar post are still visible above ground with the surrounding mold that has already rotted. There were no artifacts recovered from the mold except the 47 cm cedar post remains. The hole contained pearlware and creamware. **Feature 89-129** is a square post hole

containing a chinese porcelain sherd, bone and a cut nail. These posts are in triangular arrangement less than one meter apart. Two of the three may be related, particularly Features 89-126/127 and 89-132/134. They may be fence line posts.

Elsewhere on the site, we excavated the remaining northern half of the fill **Feature 89-15** in Bacon's tunnel. The fill in the tunnel contained tin-enamel, a fragment of Saintonge, North Devon, Westerwald, imported and domestic tobacco pipe fragments, one roof tile fragment, a water table brick fragment, etc.

The remains of **Feature 89-18** the oyster shell floor were under Feature 89-15. The shells were embedded in clay that had large river cobbles, mortar, and broken brick fragments. I assigned this clay feature a new feature number **Feature 96-14**. I'm sure it corresponds to one of the 1989 feature numbers but there were several referring to clay in the tunnel, possibly feature 89-19. Neither the oyster shell floor, Feature 89-18 or the clay, Feature 96-14 extended the entire length of the tunnel. At the western end of the tunnel Feature 89-15 was laying directly over the subsoil floor.

The actual shape of Bacon's tunnel was assigned a new feature number, **Feature 96-17**. It was not clear from the 1989 records whether one had been given for the tunnel itself, not the fill inside. There remains a small baulk of tunnel fill in between the excavated tunnel and Bacon's brick structure. In the northeast corner in the bottom of the tunnel there appears to be a post hole and possible builders trench. The post was given **Feature 96-18** and partially excavated. Time ran out, further investigation of these features will have to resume another year.

We also excavated the portion of Bacon's ditch **Feature 89-50** in between the tunnel and the Harris foundation. The ditch is relatively shallow here, approximately 1 meter deep compared to the 2 meter depth of the tunnel and the large open feature, Feature 95-18. This four meter section of the tunnel appears to connect the two. North Devon, local tobacco pipes, roof tile fragments, bones, lead shot, case or window pane fragments were some of the artifacts recovered from the fill in the ditch.