LEARN Archaeology: Excavation Expedition

Fall 2016
October 16-21, 2016

Held at James Madison’s Montpelier, Orange, Virginia
INTRODUCTION:

The LEARN Archaeology Program at Montpelier has a long history. Beginning with volunteer programs over 20 years ago, members of the public have come to James Madison’s Montpelier to gain experience excavating at archaeological sites on the historic property.

Now, the LEARN Archaeology Program includes five different expedition opportunities, including excavation, metal detecting, lab analysis, teacher archaeology training and landscape reconstruction. The Montpelier Archaeology Department runs 12-14 programs per year, pairing members of the public with professional archaeologists and preservationists to help locate, excavate, analyze, and reconstruct archaeological sites. The LEARN Archaeology designed for the teacher training is conducted in partnership with Archaeology in the Community.

This packet serves as your introduction to the Montpelier Foundation and the Expedition Program. It lays out the programmatic goals, introduces you to our staff, and discusses the Department’s current research project. It also included links to important background readings, resources about your accommodations, and other details about the property, surrounding area, required equipment, and travel directions.

Please read this packet in its entirety. There are links to additional readings in this text that we encourage you to read to familiarize yourself with the property and the excavations.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Each program comes with a specific set of objectives and goals. Each program is designed to meet four objectives:

1. To learn how the archaeological record informs us about the past.
2. To learn basic archaeological skills and methodological concepts.
3. To develop a network of archaeological heritage and preservation advocates.
4. To develop a network of supporters for the Montpelier Foundation.

To meet these objectives, and to ensure you have a valuable and enjoyable experience at Montpelier, you will learn the following during your Excavation program:

1. **Artifact Identification.** Volunteers will learn the basic artifact types found 18th and 19th century historic sites.
2. **Soils and Stratigraphy.** Volunteers will learn about soil formation processes and the fundamental concept of stratigraphy and its application to understanding site chronology and formation.
3. **Interpreting Site Stratigraphy.** Volunteers will learn how the excavation of stratum on the unit level can be integrated to interpret how a site formed and used.
4. **Madison Grounds and Plantation.** Volunteers will learn about the history of Montpelier, with tours of the several archaeological sites. An important element of these tours will show how archaeology was an integral part of discovering the history of Montpelier.
THE MONTPELIER ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

The Montpelier Archaeology Expeditions are an active part of Montpelier research on the landscape and grounds of James Madison’s 18th and 19th century plantation. Excavations have informed our understanding of the lives of James and Dolley Madison, informed the mansion and grounds restoration, aided the furnishing of the mansion’s interior, and provided an insight into the lives of the enslaved African Americans on the property. Additionally, our program has worked to identify and protect sites on the property related to the Civil War, post-Emancipation, and early 20th century, all with the participation of Expedition program volunteers.

Over the past four years, our excavations have focused on the African American experience on the property. Since 2010, we have been excavating several slave quarters across the property and in 2013 returned to the mansion to begin investigations into the formal landscape surrounding the Madison’s home, where the 2014 expeditions will continue to explore.

During the study of the living quarters for the enslaved community at Montpelier we excavated two house areas from each of three different locales of the slave community located within the historic core of the Madison plantation (Figure 1). To date, we have completed the excavation of two house sites in the South Yard and one from the Stable Quarter. By conducting a complete excavation of the homes of six enslaved households, we can compare differences found among the enslaved community at Montpelier. These differences not only highlight enslaved individuals’ position within the labor structure of the Madison plantation, but also represent the complexity of the community at Montpelier.

In 2012-2013 we excavated two sets of slave quarters associated with field hands on the Madison plantation. In April of 2012, we began excavating one of these house sites and it turned out to be a tobacco barn that was also used as a quarter. Since then, we have conducted excavations at a much larger quarter for field slaves that we found in the spring of 2012.

As detailed on the following page, the next step in our quest to understand the Madison Farm landscape is to return to the mansion grounds and investigate the 19th century landscape and in the process discover the lost 18th century landscape!

THE ARCHAEOLOGY SITE

The 2016 archaeology season will focus on the excavation of two structures: the north dwelling
and south kitchen in the Montpelier South Yard. The excavations will be a complete block excavation, with over 180 units being excavated. The project is the final archaeological component of the David Rubenstein Initiative, which is focusing on the complete excavation, interpretation, and reconstruction of the south yard slave structures, including three dwellings, two smokehouses, and the south kitchen. These excavations will be critical in understanding the full nature of the third slave dwelling and to identify final architectural details of the kitchen.

Figure 2. Overhead photo showing South Yard at the end of the 2011 excavation season with south dwellings fully excavated. In 2016, we are focusing on the north dwelling and south kitchen.
NORTH DWELLING EXCAVATIONS

Historical Evidence

Very little historical evidence exists regarding the north dwelling aside from its presence on the 1837 Insurance Plat. In this case it is listed as a “Dwelling House for Servants”, the third structure labeled in such a way, and is drawn in a similar size and shape to two other structures that have been excavated and revealed to be double quarter slave dwellings. Otherwise, we have very little evidence regarding the location or architectural design of the structure. Additionally, no excavations have been conducted at the site.

Research Questions

A series of research questions are guiding the excavations of the north dwelling.

1. Is there evidence for a structure located in the South Yard as shown on the 1837 insurance plat? What type of building construction is evident based on the feature and material evidence?
2. What is the function of the structure? Does the architectural evidence indicate a specific function? Do the objects identified around the area indicate a domestic or work-related structure?
3. How is the yard space between the dwelling and kitchen being used? Is there evidence for work related activities, or is it being defined as a domestic swept yard?

SOUTH KITCHEN EXCAVATIONS

Historical Evidence

There is no historical evidence indicating the presence of the South Kitchen. It does not appear on the 1837 insurance map, indicating it was removed prior to this time. Considering its position on the south end of the House, which was Nelly Madison’s wing, it is likely that the kitchen was taken down in 1829 following her death.

There have been substantial excavations on the South Kitchen, conducted in the early 1990s. These excavations revealed approximately 50% of the kitchen foundations, revealing a continuous brick foundation, a shed addition on the west wall, and a brick hearth on the southern wall. These results tie directly into the Georgian landscape plan that has been gradually uncovered during previous excavations of the 18th century landscape. Of particular note is the structure’s alignment, and shared foundation construction, with a possible 18th century smokehouse that was excavated in 2014 in the Southwest Yard.
Additionally, the presence of high quantities of 18th and 19th century artifacts suggests that the South Kitchen was initially constructed as part of the original 18th century landscape, and then used continuously until Nelly Madison’s death in 1829.

Excavations also revealed a number of post holes to the south of the kitchen, indicating an active yard space, likely used for work by the enslaved community.

Research Questions

A series of research questions will inform the excavations of the South Kitchen:

1. Is there architectural evidence indicating the kitchen’s initial function was that of a kitchen?
2. Is there sufficient stratigraphic or diagnostic data indicating the date the structure was constructed? Is there additional evidence indicating when it was torn down?
3. How is the yard space used by the enslaved community? Is it reflective of a work yard? Are different activities being conducted in different spaces to avoid surveillance?
4. Is there evidence of the enslaved community reclaiming work space? Is there evidence of systematic control of the kitchen space by the Madison’s?

What to Bring

Required:

- **Hat with wide brim for sun protection.** A full rim is preferable, but baseball caps will work to protect the eyes and face.
- **Sun screen.** In the open field at the site, sun screen is a necessity. High SPF sports varieties are suggested. We do provide tents for shade, but you will still have sun exposure.
- **Sneakers or work boots with flat soles and closed toes.** Good work shoes are a requirement for being at the site, and for your own safety it is important to not arrive at the site in improper foot wear (e.g. flip flops, sandals, or open top shoes). On the other hand, we suggest that you bring a pair of water shoes (flip flops or crocs) for working at the lab during water-screening.
- **Water bottles.** Each volunteer should have a refillable water bottle of at least 1 liter/32 fluid ounces filled on site at the beginning of each day. The staff brings a large cooler of water each day, but having a water bottle to refill is essential to keep yourself hydrated.
- **Gardening gloves.** During screening of soil, garden gloves come in handy—you will be breaking up dirt clods and moving them through the screen.
- **Cooler for your lunch.** You have the option to enjoy your
- **Both long and short sleeve pants and shorts.** When we start work in the morning it can be chilly and then warm up significantly by the afternoon so having a few options is very important!
- **Rain coat or rain parka.** We will work in light rain.

Recommended (not required!):
• **Folding chair.** Great for the enjoying the great outdoors at Arlington House. If you are flying in, don’t worry about this item, but if you are driving—throw it in the back seat!

• **Foam kneeling pads.** We have kneeling pads, but if you have a favorite kneeling pad, bring it as ours tend to be pretty worn!

• **Small pocket knife.** This can come in handy for tasks in the field.

**FIELD SCHEDULE**

Below is the schedule for the week. Things may change, but you should plan on being on the property from 8 am- 5 pm every day. We do take breaks throughout the day. If there is ever a point where you feel you need to take an additional break, please let your supervisor know. Everyone spends one day working in the lab but you can always spend additional time

**Sunday (Arrival Day)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:5:30 pm</td>
<td>Arrival and settle into rooms at Arlington House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:25-7:30 am</td>
<td>Participants arrive at the Archaeology Lab for introductory lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Tour of the grounds and site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Begin excavations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:15 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 -3:45 pm</td>
<td>More excavations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Clean Up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday-Friday Average Daily Schedule**

This is the schedule for the rest of the week, not including lectures or tours. Each participant will spend one day in the archaeology lab, but will follow the same daily schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:55-8:00 am</td>
<td>Arrive at the Montpelier Grounds (overflow lot/Lab parking lot.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Fieldwork/lab work begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45-10:00 am</td>
<td>Morning break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:15 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45-4:45 pm</td>
<td>Tours of various sites on property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LODGING**

**Arlington House:**

During the expedition, you will be residing at Arlington House—a historic house on the Montpelier property that is located in a beautiful setting with fields, woods, and some great old landscaping around the yard. See the following webpage for a description:
The house is large. There are five dormitory styled bedrooms equipped with shared bathrooms and showers. There is a full kitchen and laundry facilities available for you to use. More importantly, it is air conditioned—very important for the summer days and keeps the house so much cleaner!

We do expect expedition members to clean up after themselves—dishes, spills, personal items, hair in bathtub drain, etc. While the interns work hard to keep the house clean, we do not consider them a maid staff! They do an excellent job preparing the house and ensuring that the quality of housing is good for everyone—please help us in the process!

The kitchen at Arlington House is newly refurbished, and have a microwave, two fridges, and a new stove. In the basement, there is a new high-efficiency washer and dryer set (free to use!). There is a large dining room and a large living room with a screened porch off to the side. We will also have a barbeque grill (charcoal) for cooking as well. The kitchen is stocked with your basic pots and pans and plates and silverware.

The house does have phone service (540-672-2769) but no long distance, so you will need to bring a phone card. Cell-phone service exists, but is often spotty. **Also, there is Wi-Fi internet available at the house so feel free to bring laptops and other devices. There is a TV but no cable so you may want to bring some movies with you to watch.**

The following rules are intended to keep the house clean and to ensure healthy and quality of living for all occupants. The upkeep and cleanliness of the house is considered part of the group experience for your time here at Montpelier and we have found the following rules to be beneficial to all involved (participants and staff):

- **No food or drink is allowed outside of the kitchen and dining areas.** Arlington House has a dining table and this will be used for all meals consumed in the house. For sanitation and cleanliness, food and drink is not allowed in individual rooms or living room. We do have mice in the house (as any old house has) but they are contained and we want to keep them restricted!

- **Work shoes should not be worn in the house.** Upon entering the house, shoes can be removed at the door on the front porch. Clean shoes, sandals, or slippers can be kept on shelving at this location for use in the house.

- **Only use the laundry detergent in the basement for the high efficiency washers and dryers.** The washing machine in the basement of Arlington House is designed for HE detergent that is loaded in the tray.

- **No smoking allowed in the house.** Smokers can smoke on the porches or outside and dispose of their cigarette butts. For courtesy and cleanliness, smokers should ensure that second-hand smoke does not enter into windows of the house or interfere with others.

- **Repairs to the house need to be reported to supervisors immediately.** In the event of accidental or other damage to the house, please let us know so we can fix it immediately.

- **Be green!** Turn out the lights and turn down the air conditioners when you leave the house.

- **Flush only toilet paper in commodes.** All of Arlington House are on septic systems and as such only dispose of toilet paper
FOOD

Aside from Sunday and Friday dinner, you will be responsible for providing your own breakfast, lunch and dinners. There are food stores close by (within a 10 minute drive) so don’t feel like you have to stockpile your food for the week. The closest grocery stores are a Food Lion and a Walmart located in Orange, VA. If there are specialty food items that you prefer, you may want to bring them with you since the selections at these stores can be limited. Many people opt to go into Orange or Culpepper for dinner. Although, these towns are small, there are fantastic dining out options!

The Montpelier Exchange Café has wonderful options for snacks and lunch. You can spend your lunch time (30 minutes) at the café which is located in the Montpelier Visitor Center, if you wish. The menu changes on a daily basis but there are wonderful salad, sandwich, and soup options. Also the café is always serving coffee and a wide variety of pastries!

TRANSPORTATION

It is not required for you to have a car to participate in the program although we do encourage you to bring one if you can! Arlington House is located a little over a mile from the Excavation Site and the Archaeology Lab. Also the town of Orange, which has the closest grocery stores is about 8 miles away. If it is not possible for you to bring a car, you will have to carpool with other participants. Please let us know if you will not have a car so we will make sure this is possible.

Getting to Arlington House

The physical address for Arlington House is 10400 Arlington Drive, Somerset, VA 22972, see the following link for a map (google map). If you are arriving by train, bus or plane, the easiest terminal/airport is Charlottesville, a taxi service that we use is Rick's taxi: 434-409-1369. He knows the area and more importantly, knows where Arlington House is located—sometimes that can be a challenge with other drivers! Also, to get to Arlington House, you do not need to enter the Montpelier property.

MONTPELIER AND SURROUNDS

Montpelier is a beautiful property and we recommend that you take the time to explore it during your off hours. Here are some things to consider while driving and walking the grounds.

Driving on the Property

A property map has been included at the end of this packet. The posted speed limit is 20 mph. When you encounter other vehicles on the property, it is often safest to pull off to the side of the road and motion for the driver to pass.

There are numerous horse stables scattered over the property and many of the horses that are stabled at Montpelier are retired horse races with a tendency to be flighty and spirited. As such,
whenever you see a horse on the roads, proceed with caution. Best practice in these circumstances is to approach at 5 mph and then stop until the horse has passed or the riders have motioned for you to pass.

Nature Trails

There are numerous trails available for you to explore on the property. A trail map will be provided to you when you arrive at the Archaeology Lab Monday morning. Cell service is often spotty on the property. Always make sure to tell others is you plan on exploring the grounds, especially if you are alone.

Getting onto the Historic Property (Not Arlington House)

To enter the property, please come in through West Gate where the current gate code is 0115. The main gate to the grounds does not open until 9am so to enter the property for the beginning of the day, you must come in through West Gate which is located off Jacksontown Road/Chicken Mountain Road.

CAR TROUBLES

If you happen to run into car issues, there are a number of places in town where you can get help. However, the archaeology staff at Montpelier, heartily recommends the friendly mechanics at Harvey William’s Garage. If you can drive your vehicle, turn left out of Arlington Drive, then left onto Route 20. Keep on driving until you get to the stop sign for Route 33, then turn right. Harvey’s is on your left after about one-half of a mile.

ORANGE

Getting to Orange is very simple! Turn left out of Arlington Drive, then right onto Route 20. Within 7-10 minutes you will be on Main Street. Be careful of your speed, though, as State Troopers and the Orange County Sherriff’s Department occasionally camps out at the Funeral Home (white colonnaded building on the right, just after the 25 mph speed limit sign.)

Drive through the 3-way stop and to the stop light and you’ll have access to all that Orange has to offer, shopping-wise.

- **Groceries (Orange Center).** This is the main shopping center for orange. Take a left at the stop light and you’ll pass Faulkners (hardware store), Domino’s Pizza, and El Vaquero (very popular). As you pass Sheetz (Silk Mill is just before this on the right) there is another stop light: drive through this and the Orange Center is on the right after another minute of driving. Hand location for pizza, Hallmark, Food Lion, Burger King, Dollar Store, and an ABC store. If you continue along Route 15 for another ¼ mile you’ll come to a large CVS.

- **Banks.** Bank of American is on the left on Main Street before you get to the stop light mentioned above. To get to SunTrust, turn left and it’s immediately on your right, while BB&T is just after the Subaru dealership. Chevy Chas is in the Orange Center (above).

- **Restaurants.** There are a whole range of restaurants in Orange. Take a left at the stop light and they will be arrayed before you. On the right you have Domino’s Pizza (540.672.2300 to deliver!), MacDonald’s, Subway and, in the Orange Center, Burger
King. On your left you’ve got Hardy’s, KFC/Long John Silvers, and Sheetz. For restaurants you have El Vaquero and the Silk Mill. On main straight (straight ahead from the stop light) you’ve got The Lightwell (the only place to serve some gluten free substances!), a Chinese restaurant (Happy Garden) and Marios (Italian food).

**CULPEPPER AND CHARLOTTESVILLE**

To get to Culpeper, turn left out of Arlington Drive and then right onto Route 20. Drive into Orange, through the three-way stop and turn left at the first stop light. Drive through the stop light near Sheetz and then follow Route 15 North until you hit Culpeper. Cinema, Wal-Mart, Target, Martins, Lowes. Etc. can be found here.

Charlottesville is equally easy to find. Turn left out of Arlington Drive, and then left onto Route 20. Drive until you reach the junction with Route 33, then turn right. Following Route 33 until you reach Route 29, then turn left. Continue to drive and you’ll see the sprawl of Charlottesville before you.
STAFF BIOGRAPHIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Montpelier Archaeology Department consists of full-time staff members and interns employed by The Montpelier Foundation. Archaeology staff work side-by-side with expedition members allowing for continuous instruction and supervision. This close interaction has been integral to the success of the Montpelier field and laboratory programs. The staff interns live at Arlington House with expedition participants. Along with providing field and laboratory training, the Montpelier staff will enhance the participant’s experience by presenting lectures pertinent to the fieldwork, and leading tours of several archaeological sites on the Montpelier property.

Matthew Reeves, PH.D., Directory of Archaeology

Matt has been the Director of Archaeology since 2009 and is in charge of the overall archaeological research at James Madison’s Montpelier. Serving as the principal investigator for archaeology on the property, during the expedition programs, Matt gives a number of lectures and works with the field director to ensure that the excavations are working towards the over-arching research design.

Over the past 2 decades, Matt’s research has focused on plantation life and Civil War encampments with an overall focus on sites of the African Diaspora (both pre and post emancipation). Prior to being the Director of Archaeology at Montpelier, he directed projects at Manassas National Battlefield Park, Jefferson Patterson Park, various New York DOT projects, and has worked on a wide variety of historic and prehistoric sites in Maryland, Virginia, New York and Jamaica. His doctorate is from Syracuse University and focused on 19th-century slave settlements in Jamaica that he spent two years surveying and excavating.

Terry Brock, PH.D., Senior Research Archaeologist

Terry began working at Montpelier in March and has just completed his dissertation on mid-19th century plantation life in Southern Maryland (St. Mary’s City). He has a rich set of experience in public archaeology, social media, and finding new ways to engage the public with archaeological discoveries. He has worked on projects in Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, and Rome.

Terry will be running the field programs during the expedition and writing up the reports at the end of the season.
Mary F Minkoff, PH.D., Curator of Archaeological Collections

Mary joined the Montpelier staff in October 2015. She received her PhD at the University of Maryland, College Park where she specialized in civically engaged archaeology, community archaeology, African American archaeology, sensory archaeology, and Civil War archaeology. Her dissertation focused on working with descendants and stakeholders to uncover the archaeology and memories of African American communities, particularly The Fort community in Alexandria, Virginia, surrounding the Civil War Defenses of Washington.

Prior to coming to Montpelier, Mary worked with the National Park Service in a variety areas including the National Capital Regional Archaeology Office and as an archaeologist for the Urban Archaeology Corps youth program. Before coming to the Mid-Atlantic, Mary worked for the Florida Public Archaeology Network as the Outreach Coordinator for the Northwest Regional Office. She earned her MA in Historical Archaeology from the University of West Florida and BA in Anthropology and History from the University of Mississippi. Mary has worked on archaeological sites spanning the prehistoric and historic time periods throughout the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States and in Veracruz, Mexico.

Ben Kirby, M.A., Archaeology Lab Manager

Ben received his B.A. in anthropology and B.S. in chemistry from The College of William & Mary in 2012 and received is M.A. in historical archaeology from William & Mary in 2015. He has done fieldwork in Barbados as well as several sites in the city of Alexandria. Before coming to Montpelier, Ben briefly worked at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as a faunal remains analyst.

Ben’s M.A. focused on sourcing two ceramic production sites in Barbados using XRF instrumentation in an effort to better distinguish between local and exported ceramics. His research interests include: colonial archaeology, materials characterization studies, ceramic studies, and zooarchaeology.

Ally Campo, M.A., Field Coordinator

Ally graduated from the University of Mary Washington in 2011 with a B.A. in Historic Preservation. She continued on to get her M.A. in Historical Archaeology from the College of William and Mary in May 2015. Her research focused on the stresses and coping strategies of enslaved African Americans of Virginia during the early 19th century. Before working for Montpelier, Ally worked as an archaeology technician for multiple cultural resource management firms doing fieldwork across the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition, she spent a summer excavating in French Polynesia investigating subsistence of early Polynesians. Her many research interests include diaspora studies, bioarchaeology, shell analysis, public archaeology, and historical interpretation in museum settings.
Stephanie Hallinan, B.A., Public Archaeology Program Coordinator

Stephanie received her B.A. in Anthropology from SUNY Oswego in 2011 and is currently working on completing her Master's degree in Historical Archaeology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her thesis is focusing on rural Spanish Colonial Settlements in New Mexico. She has worked as a field technician at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest and has also conducted field work for the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research in Massachusetts and New Mexico. She is interested in many different topics such as colonial, diaspora, and environmental archaeology but her passion is public archaeology and community engagement.

Erica Moses, B.A., Archaeologist

Erica studied anthropology and history at Oberlin College, graduating in 2011. She completed her field school at a Maya site in Belize. She also studied Irish archaeology during a semester at University College Cork. Prior to joining the field staff at Montpelier in October 2014, Erica worked as an archaeology technician at Colonial Williamsburg and on a variety of cultural resource management projects in Virginia and Pennsylvania. She has a long list of research interests that includes European colonization of North America and the expanding frontier, culture contact in early American history, landscape archaeology and GIS, and archaeology’s role in public history.

D.J. Berry, B.S., Archaeologist

D.J. received his B.S. in Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology and minor in History from James Madison University in 2014. His field experiences include volunteer work at Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove plantation. He completed his archaeological field school at Montpelier in 2014. In December 2014 he returned as an intern and continued through July 2014. Immediately after his internship he joined the team as a full time staff archaeologist. D.J. has research interests in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and plans to use GIS to help analyze and interpret data from archaeological sites.
Elizabeth McCague, B.A., Archaeologist

Elizabeth McCague is a 2015 graduate of St. Mary’s College of Maryland where she received her B.A. in Anthropology and earned minors in Museum Studies and African Diaspora Studies. She has worked on excavations in Maryland, Jamaica, and The Gambia, West Africa. Elizabeth joined the Montpelier team as an intern in the summer of 2015, and stayed on as a staff archaeologist beginning in April 2016.

Her research interests lie within plantation archaeology, foodways and consumption, African diaspora studies, and archaeobotany.

Melissa Frederick, M.S., Archaeologist

Melissa received her B.A. in Anthropology from American University in 2011 and will receive her M.S. in Historical Archaeology from Illinois State University in May 2016. Her thesis focused on Cherokee community coalescence in East Tennessee through the study of ceramics and historic documents. She has field and lab experience from her work at the East St. Louis Mound Center and other prehistoric and historic sites in Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Her fascination with museum work also led to internships with the Hermitage and the Cincinnati Museum Center. Her primary research interests include the archaeology of culture contact, colonialism, and agency in early American history as well as public archaeology.

Dennis Bjorklund, Metal Detectorist

Dennis has been metal detecting since 1985, where he has found coins, jewelry, artifacts, property corners and unexploded ordnance. He is also an experienced land surveyor. He first started working at Montpelier after he attended a Metal Detecting Expedition Program in the spring of 2014, and has aided in the discovery of multiple sites across the Montpelier landscape since.
**Lance Crosby, Metal Detectorist**

Lance Crosby has over thirty years of metal detecting experience in Virginia. Lance began working for the archaeology department in 2008 and has logged well over 3000 historic hits (pre 1900 in era) and located two dozen Civil War or antebellum sites across the property.

**ARCHAEOLOGY INTERNS**

We have interns that live in and maintain Arlington House. All of the interns have completed a field school here at Montpelier and have been selected from our group of 30 students to stay on for a year. The Interns will be working with you all in the units and be part of your everyday experience.
SUGGESTED READINGS

Many participants enjoy familiarizing themselves with the property and the field and laboratory procedures before arriving. We have made these readings, each of which is fairly short, available as downloads from the Montpelier website. For even more readings, check our technical report library at:

1. A Brief Landscape History of Montpelier. This provides a brief outline of the landscape history for the mansion as well as a summary of various excavation seasons at the mansion grounds.  
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B02-NRxEZl47RVJ2ajFoajiwUzA/view?usp=sharing

2. Slave Housing at Montpelier. This article describes some of the slave homes we have uncovered at Montpelier over the past two years. This article also provides a context for the larger work landscape at Montpelier.  
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B02-NRxEZl47U3JjTFlFZkltTXM/view?u

3. Field Methods at Montpelier. This guide provides detailed instructions for the various procedures we carry out in the field. It is recommended that you skim this, but it will make a lot more sense once you have spent a couple of days in the field.  
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B02-NRxEZl47RWdEQXQ5eGRXb0E/view?usp=sharing

4. 3-Year South Yard Restoration Project: This brief blog is a description for the restoration of the South Yard.  
   http://forum.savingplaces.org/blogs/forum-online/2015/06/16/breaking-new-ground-at-montpelier-for-interpreting-slavery