October 1, 1968

Dear Mary and John:

It seems we are not to cross paths soon; it therefore seems best to mail the photos to you with the comments. Where comments apply, they are written lightly in pencil on the reverse.

Noel is completely puzzled by the polka-dots; he would like
to examine them personally.
Some time, when Man and
I are in Wilmington, I shall
stop to bring them down—
mailing seems too hazardous.
I regret missing you in
Colorado this summer. Man
reports that all went well
with you.

Considering all the political
candidates, I have decided to
vote a straight vegetarian
ticket.

Best to all,

Mike
July 20, 1966

Dear Mrs. Watkins,

I received your letter of July 15th in regard to the exploratory work you wish to do at Bennett's Point just as I was about to leave for a trip abroad for about a month.

We have owned Bennett's Point for about 10 years, and my knowledge of the main house which used to be on the place is only hearsay, but I believe it burned down many years ago. There is a graveyard which I believe is adjacent to the location of the old house.

It will be entirely agreeable for you to make the exploratory examinations mentioned in your letter; and if you find something interesting which you want to follow up, you can take that up with me when I return in the latter part of August.

I have not had an opportunity to get in touch with Albert W. Graves, Jr., who is my manager on the place, but you can show him this letter as evidence of permission to proceed. I will be obliged if you will send me a copy of your paper when completed.

Very truly yours,

Stuart S. Janney, Jr.
January 11, 1971

Mrs. John M. Watkins, Jr.
919 Westover Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19807

Dear Mrs. Watkins:

As you must be very well aware, we have held onto your artifacts from Bennett's Point for an unpardonable length of time. I had been hoping that you would be down this way and that we would have been able to go over the collection together. Now, with the new year upon us, and my secretary demanding that I clear away last year's loose ends, I am resorting to a letter.

The real problem is that one could (and should) write a full report on all the significant artifacts in the collection. But as you may guess, I do not have time to do that. Furthermore, I do not know how much you already know about the material, and I do not want to take up your time or mine discussing points that need no commentary.

I am very concerned about the condition of the metalwork, for it is all in dire need of laboratory attention, and I am wondering whether you have facilities for doing this. We, of course, have not touched it, partly because we had no authority to tinker with your artifacts, and partly because we have enough of our own to worry about! I would have suggested that you tried to get Richard Muzzrole at the Smithsonian to help you, but I understand that the National Museum is pulling out of the historical archaeological game and closing the lab.

Let me briefly review the contents of the various groups.

**Pit A.** On the basis of the ceramics and the glass, I would put the date of deposition in the period 1740-60, the later date being the more likely on the evidence of the engraved tumbler(? fragment (QA-1.641). However, the Binford formula for the pipe stem dating gives a mean of 1763-89. The group does include a number of much earlier items, notably the brown pipe bowl fragment
(QA-1.826) which I would place in the late seventeenth century, also the tear-drop drawer handle (QA-1.435). I usually consider this thimble type to be a relatively early eighteenth century form (QA-1.722). The bell-shaped wine glass bowl (drawn stem with tear) comes from a two-piece glass similar to my XVIII (1730-60) in Artifacts of Colonial America (Knopf, N.Y., 1970) p.191. For a very close parallel, see Here Lies Virginia (Knopf, N.Y., 1963) p.275, Fig.111, center. Your glass bowl fragment is marked QA-1.410. The small iron object that looks like a two-part ice skate is actually a miniature pair of ember tongs known as a smoker's companion (see Artifacts, p.309). The number is now partially illegible: QA-1.11? No doubt you recognize the tubular brass object (QA-1.965) as being part of a bell metal (or other copper alloy) spigot. For a parallel, see Archaeology and Wetherburn's Tavern (C.W. Archaeological Booklet No.3) p.28, Fig.15. I was interested to see the fragments of "turned lead" (cf. Artifacts, p.233), your Nos.QA-1.876-877, for they suggest the presence of casement windows in the area. However, it is quite possible that these fragments represent waste lead and were intended for remelting and reuse in some other form. This may also explain the presence of waste lead fragments Nos.QA-1.1144, 1146, and QA-1.842-V. It is tempting to wonder whether there is any relationship between the waste lead and the fine collection of pewter spoons. I would note that the round-bowed specimens QA-1.967 & 1163 are relatively uncommon on English sites. The shape is much more often encountered among European pewter spoons. The buttons are generally rather uninformative, though they are quite appropriate for the date range of the deposit. Of particular interest are the pewter sleeve-buttons with the raised hearts. These "amor" buttons belong to a class most common in the latter part of the seventeenth century (see Artifacts, p.89, Fig.22, Nos.2 & 3), but those with the "stones" (QA-1.701) with the S-shaped link are later. Turning now to the ceramics: Nos.QA-1.482, 575-7, & 861 are all Chinese export porcelain, all save the first being pieces of plates (three of them probably related), and the former being part of a bowl. I would place them all in the period c.1700-65, though Chinese export porcelain of this period is extremely difficult to pin down. Four English delftware fragments are represented; the small bowl probably dates around 1740 (QA-1.966), but the small drug pot base (QA-1.608) might be as early as the late seventeenth century (Artifacts, p.206, Fig.67, No.4). The curvature of the third fragment
(QA-1.418) suggests that it might come from a drug jar (Ibid., p.207, Fig.68) but I would hesitate to try to date it — perhaps c.1690-1730. The fourth sherd comes from a plate (QA-1.930) and could date as early as c.1710 or as late as about 1740. The sherd of lead-glazed redware seems to be a rather gingery version of the ware loosely called Astbury-type, this fragment more closely resembling the products of the Bell factory at Newcastle-under-Lyme (QA-1.1007), see Artifacts, p.123. This fragment may be a shoulder sherd from a teapot or teapoy, and should date in the period c.1740-55.

I realize that there are numerous items in the collection that I have not discussed, but I suspect that you, yourself, can say all that needs to be said about them. However I should have mentioned the early fragment of English dipped, white saltglaze (QA-1.707) which comes from a mug and dates around 1720-40. For a lengthy discussion of the development of this ware, see Antiques, Vol.XCVII, No.2, (Feb. 1970), pp.248-55.

Box of Finds from the Shore

This assemblage runs a gamut from pipe bowls of the third quarter of the seventeenth century (QA-1.1530 & 1726) to a modern saucer (QA-1.1491). Sherds QA-1.1339 & 1669 are pieces of American stoneware and probably date after 1810. Other items of greater interest include a bottom sherd from a Chinese export plate decorated in overglaze colors with a basket of flowers in the style of Rouen faience, and which probably dates from the last third of the eighteenth century (QA-1.1359). Also worthy of note is a rim fragment from a Burslem stoneware mug of about 1720-40 (QA-1.1694). The pieces of delftware wall or fireplace tiles are interesting from an architectural point of view (QA-1.1423, 1440 & 1717), but there is little I can say beyond noting that they probably date after 1690 and before about 1760. The brass buckle (QA-1.1725) is a rather nice one and probably dates prior to c.1725. It would have been used on a sword belt or on light harness. Rather similar specimens have been found at Port Royal in Jamaica. I cannot be very helpful about the iron object, but I think it likely that it served to support a mantle, the dart-like end being driven into the wall. I donot think that it is a keeper for a latch as some might have suggested. I am afraid that we are very weak in the coin department as far as our library is
concerned, and we have little or nothing at all
detailed covering European numismatics. It would
seem, however, that the cut silver coin is half
of a "piece of eight" (8 reals) of Charles III of
Spain (1759-88) and may have been minted in 1762.
But do not rely on this identification. I would
suggest taking it to Mr. V. Clain-Stefanelli,
curator of numismatics at the Smithsonian.

Material from around foundations near Ice House Point

The principal object is, of course, the Roman coin
(QA-1.ER51B.I.B.12a) and as I have already discussed
that in my letters of April 1 and May 7, 1970, I
need say no more. The pewter button (ER.51A.I.B.12a)
is of interest in that it appears to have come
directly from the mold and never to have been trimmed
for use. The small rim fragment of delft (ER.50D.
I.B.106) was decorated in polychrome colors and may
be part of the lid of a soap dish, c.1720-40. The
dipped white saltglaze handle fragment (ER.51A.I.B.12a)
belongs to the same class as the rim fragment from
Pit A. I am sure that you have recognized the salt-
glaze plate rim (ER.51A.I.B.12a) as being decorated in
the barley pattern. See Artifacts, p.116, Fig.35,
No.3. The very small rim piece of brown stoneware
(marked only ER.51) is almost certainly Nottingham
but I do not recognize the shape.

Box marked "Ice House Pt Surface (Beach) Finds."

This collection has a considerable date range extending
from pipes of c.1690 to granite china (QA-1.189). I
will attempt only to mention a few of the more
interesting items. The most important is the Astbury-
Bell type teapot spout (QA-1.306) which could easily
be from the same vessel as the sherd mentioned under
Pit A. (QA-1.1007) -- which see. Pipe stem fragment
QA-1.1274 is impressed X.X.I.F.X.X, and is paralleled
by an example from Clay Bank in Virginia in a context
of circa 1700. Another unstratified example has been
found in Williamsburg. See I. Noël Hume: Excavations
at Clay Bank, Contributions from the Museum of History
and Technology, Paper 52, Washington, D.C., 1966, p.26,
Fig.16, No.11. There are two West of England
(Barnstaple-Bideford) sherds in this collection (QA-1.
208 and 636) and both seem to be early of their type,
e.g. c.1700. I might also draw your attention to the
three pieces of delftware plate (QA-1.928,1023X, and
1025) which are of similar character to your No.QA-1.930
from Pit A. As for the later sherds, I would mention the fragment of black basaltes (QA-1.1380) which probably dates around 1770-1800, a piece of a pearlware saucer (QA-1.922), and a fragment of a mid-nineteenth century American stoneware crock with an Albany slip on the interior (QA-1.1332).

I hope that all this will be of some use to you and that you will let me know fairly soon how you intend to retrieve your fine collection from us.

Sincerely yours,

Ivor Noël Hume
Director
Department of Archaeology
Guidelines for Archaeological
Excavations on Bennett's Point, Maryland
September 19, 1972

The broad objective of these excavations is to define, as completely as possible, the meaningful archaeological features on the Bennett's Point property of Mr. Frank Hardy, Queenstown, Maryland, without detriment to his land development plans. Specific objectives could include:

1 - definition of the features of the house and outbuildings used by Peter Sayer and Richard Bennett III with respect to size, character, orientation and sequence of building,

2 - the nature of the subsurface features of the cemetery surrounding Richard Bennett's grave with respect to size, number of graves, nature and extent of the wall foundations and the pavement and the sequence of their building,

3 - nature and the purpose of the structure which stood on Ice House Point and

4 - a survey of the entire property to define other 17th and 18th century features worthy of excavation.

The excavations will be under the direction of John L. Ludlow with assistance from Dr. and Mrs. John K. Watkins, Jr. Competent people will be invited to aid in the work, and they will agree to:

1 - visit the site only when work is in progress,

2 - not litter the property,

3 - not remove, deface or destroy any of the property,

4 - not change the property, except as is absolutely necessary during the natural course of excavating and

5 - not hold the property owner (s) liable for any injury incurred while on the property.

Excavations will be kept open as long as weather permits during a season and will be back-filled when the work is complete, which will usually be at the end of the season (December), and they may be reopened in the spring (March). Arrangements will be made with the owner when it is desirable for the excavations to remain open at the end of the season. Back-filling will not be done if this can be accomplished by construction work which is in progress. Open pits will be roped-off as a safety measure to define pits when work is not going on.

All artifacts found will remain the property of the owner of the lot on which the excavations are being carried out or of the person who purchases the property after the excavation has started. However, the director of the excavations will keep the artifacts for study and for use during preparation of the final site report. After its completion they will be returned to the owner. (Generally, these artifacts have no monetary value-their value being as they serve to date features and serve as tangible evidence of what early life was like on the property).

Every effort will be made not to publicize the excavations.
so that irresponsible people will not be attracted to the property. However, we will be happy to discuss the work and the history of the site with any person, or groups, where such discussions might aid in the promotion of the developer's plans, or we will aid in the promotion in any way he might suggest.

It would greatly facilitate the archaeological work if the developer would request permission for excavation when property is sold, when such property appears from the survey work to be worth excavating.

Every effort will be made to carry out the excavations so that there will be no interference with development and construction efforts. However, if these efforts reveal archaeological features (structures, trash middens, etc.) of possible interest, prompt notification of the director would be appreciated so that immediate archaeological salvage work can be carried out.

It is expected that this work will be worthwhile for at least two or three years, and it is hoped that permission to excavate will continue until all of the interesting areas have been studied. After the field work is finished, a report will be written covering the excavations as well as the conclusions reached in conjunction with the historical research which will be going on concurrently.

John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Dr.
Wilmington, Delaware 19809
302-764-3817
May 10, 1972

Maryland State Library  
Court of Appeals Building  
Bladen Streets & College Ave.  
Box 191  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404  

Gentlemen:

We are interested in obtaining xerox copies of material on Richard Bennett of Queen Anne's County that appeared in the following issues of the Maryland Gazette:

Oct. 18, 1749 (obituary?)  
Nov. 8, 1749 (account of burial)

If you are able to help us in this request, please send material and invoice to the attention of the Library.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) M. Anne L. Wolf, Assistant  
Printed Books and Periodicals Collection

MAW.mh
Mrs. M. Anne L. Wolf, Assistant

Printed Books & Periodicals Collection

The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum
Winterthur, Delaware 19735

2 photocopies from the Maryland Gazette:
  Oct. 18, 1749
  Nov. 8, 1749

TOTAL 1 00

Minimum charge $1.00 (cash, check, or stamps)

(Make check payable to: Arundel Office Equipment Co.)
October 30, 1972

Mr. John L. Ludlow,
211 Edgewood Drive,
Wilmington, Delaware, 19809,

Dear Mr. Ludlow:

I want to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of the three cut Spanish coins enclosed with your letter of the 23rd. We have weighed and photographed these, and have deduced some information from them. However, I want to retain these a bit longer, until I see the photographic prints in order to be sure that they are adequate and that the prints are associated with the proper pieces.

Meanwhile, you will find this data of interest, perhaps:

1) Half of 2 reales, found at Ice House Point by Mrs. Watkins. Reign of Philip V, assayer J, date 17__ (apart from Seville 1731-1747. Weighs 42.4 grains.

2) Half of 8 (not 4) reales, found at Wye River by Mrs. Ludlow. Reign of Charles III, assayer FM, 1772 (only date for him on pillar dollars), colonial mint. Weighs 192.4 grains.

3) Quarter of 8 (not 4) reales, found in Indiana by John C. Ludlow. Reign of Charles III, assayer FM, late bust type, 1784-1788. Weighs 107.2 grains.

Coins will be returned by registered mail as soon as photos can be checked out as satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

W. W. Woodside

W. W. Woodside,
Hon. Curator of Coins
HISTORICAL DIG ANYONE?

John Ludlow, Editor, has started a salvage-type excavation program on Bennett's Point, Maryland. This area is on the Eastern Shore about 10 miles south of the Bay Bridge. The site was occupied over 300 years ago, as shown by Augustine Herrmann's map which shows two houses on the Point in 1673. One of these houses has been partially excavated this season and it is a large structure with several unusual features and an interesting set of 17th and 18th century artifacts. The site is to be developed starting in the spring of 1973 and, in order to preserve as much of the archaeological information as possible, testing and survey work will continue during the winter, as weather permits. Anyone interested in assisting with this winter work, or in the spring when excavating can be resumed, write or call for details on the plans as follows:

John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19809
302-764-3817

While this may be cold, winter's work, there are the off-setting prospects for participants of the thrills of discovery of further 17th and 18th century structures, magnificent scenery and what has been thus far, matchless camaraderie!

Tyle:

11/20/72

This is a very interesting and probably important historical site. If you would care to come over your time let me know and we can meet down there and I would be glad to show you what we have done and what we hope to accomplish before the land is developed. 

Warmest regards!

John Ludlow
Division of Archeology
28 Nov 72

Mr. John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Dear John:

I am delighted to learn from your note of 20 Nov 72 that you are undertaking salvage excavations at Bennett's Point. Please let me know if I should contact the Maryland societies. It is likely that some of their members will want to help out. I am finishing up a salvage project in western Maryland and have heavy office obligations this winter, but I will contact you the first opportunity I have to visit the Eastern Shore. In the meantime, I would appreciate having you complete one of the enclosed site survey reports so that I will have a record of the site and can assign it a uniform number.

If I can be of some assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tyler Eastian
State Archeologist

TB/nab ence.
Ludlow:

1. send that bag forms

(make no an area)

include cem. facets
found in modern house

midden trench

carrier test

between modern

house & spearot.

2. artef. law re gifts

3.
Mr. Ivor Noël Hume, Director  
Department of Archaeology  
Colonial Williamsburg  
Post Office Drawer C  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185  
January 1, 1973

Dear Mr. Noël Hume:

Attached are the analyses Sterling M. Pomeroy and I made on the Wetherburn Tavern sample you gave me back in March, 1972. The lateness of the report is due to vacations and high work loads during the summer and then by my being overwhelmed by months of intensive excavating at the Bennett's Point site where Mary Watkins and I have been working. The analyses are not unusual. The data may be useful in comparing with results in the future from other sources. I have included the two complete literature references so that they also might be immediately available in the future.

Mary Watkins and I are delighted with the fine preservation work your laboratory did on our Bennett's Point artifacts. The lateness of replying does not indicate the level of our appreciation!

At Bennett's Point the property is now in the hands of a developer and he expects to be in full swing in the spring. This fall we exposed some 60 percent of a foundation which appears to be from the third quarter of the 17th century, on the basis of artifacts and the "H"-fireplace. The destruction date appears to be no later than about 1800. There are four unusual features (see sketch) which I have not been able to find much precedence for. You show an "unexplained hole" in front of a fireplace of a very similar, though smaller, house in Historical Archaeology, and I have a reference to sweet potatoes being kept in earthen pits before fireplaces in slave's houses on the Eastern Shore. The pits had no mortar between the floor stones or bricks and thus were not liquid-tight, and the sides are of brick and mortar with two of the pits having plastered walls. They are irregular in shape, they may have been put in at different times because their constructions are not similar, they contained nothing to give a clue to their purpose and one of them (number IV) had been filled with sand containing kitchen trash and then covered over with floor boards so that it was no longer used. The others probably were in use and may have been covered by wooden lids when the house was destroyed. My current hypothesis is that they were used for storage. If you have any thoughts on these features I would appreciate hearing from you.

We have another house foundation to check out before construction work starts in the spring, because a road is to be put over the site. We are trying to establish where the main 17th or 18th century house was because it was the home of Richard Bennett III (grandson of Richard Bennett I, Cromwell's Governor of Virginia) who was said to be the richest man in the Colonies at the time of his death on October 11, 1749. I have staked off the limits of
the graveyard where he is buried and expect to excavate this area at leisure since it is not to be developed! There probably was a Catholic chapel in this area and it's excavation may shed light on such structures of the early 18th century. The whole thing is tremendously exciting, but the imminent presence of the bulldozer gets overwhelming at times.

Again our thanks for your work on our artifacts.

Cordially,

John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19809
January 2, 1973

Mr. Tyler Bastian
Maryland Geological Survey
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Dear Tyler,

It was delightful to hear from you and get your offer to line-up people to help at Bennett's Point. I have no firm plans now for excavating but as soon as I do I will let you know and would welcome anyone who is interested. I will be doing testing around an existing house that is over a 19/20th century foundation looking for a possible earlier structure. I hope to evaluate this area before a road is put through in the spring.

I enclose a letter written to Noël Hume that gives some of the picture. The history of the area is quite fascinating and I am sure the archaeological work will add greatly to the historical picture. I am being helped by Father Edward B. Carley, the priest in Centerville, and he is a walking encyclopedia on Eastern Shore Catholicism. He is convinced that there may be a Catholic chapel on the ground and one test pit several years ago showed there may be such a structure. This area will have to wait. I have the house foundation indicated on the enclosed Site Survey Report. The excavation is now under straw and polyethylene film and I don't plan to open it until I have done what I can ahead of the road building.

I will keep you informed on how things are going. Best wishes for a happy and archaeologically profitable New Year.

Sincerely,

John Ludlow
January 5, 1973

Dear Mr. Ludlow:

My face is redder than ever! As soon as I reached home, I dug into the mass of papers filed with my ms. on cut pieces. And of course, there were your coins, ready to mail but still unmailed.

How or why this happened I’ll never understand, for the photographs had been taken — but happen it did. So I offer my abrupt apologies, and will get this off, registered, in the a.m.

Perhaps you want a bit of data on these:

1) The piece found in Indiana is a 1/4 cut of an 8 reales of Charles III, struck in the period 1784-88.

2) The piece found by Mrs. Watkins is 1/2 cut of 2 reales of Philip V struck in the Seville mint between 1723 and 1737.

3) The piece found by Mrs. Ludlow is 1/2 cut of an 8 reales of Charles III, struck between 1760 and 1788.

Again my apologies, and my thanks for your help. Sincerely,

W.W. Woodside
Mr. John L. Ludlow  
211 Edgewood Drive  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Dear Mr. Ludlow:

Very many thanks for your most welcome letter of January 1, and for all the trouble you have taken in identifying the Wetherburn's Tavern bottle liquid.

On the matter of the Bennett's Point house plan at its rectangular pits I can only say that this kind of feature is very common in Virginia seventeenth- and eighteenth-century kitchen buildings, though I do not know of brick lined examples. I am sending a copy of your plan to Dr. William Kelso who is the archaeological historian for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, as he has encountered similar pits in his excavations at the Bray Plantation in James City County. However, these, too, lack the brick lining, though Bill say that there may have been traces of wooden siding. We normally classify these things as root cellars and assume that they were intended to keep root crops dry. However, I must confess that I do not quite understand how the hearths would have provided the necessary dryness at such a depth below the floor. Nevertheless, the fact that the pits are relatively common must mean they served their purpose well enough.

I have read your bottle liquid analysis with great care but not, I must admit, with tremendous understanding. It is particularly your page two that has me baffled, for I was not clear as to the meaning of the term "liquid packing medium", for as I read it, M. B. Jacobs in his chemical analysis of foods and food products was not discussing packaging. Nevertheless, this leads to your important conclusion that "the bottles contained up to about 75% fruit by weight". I do not understand how this is arrived at, as none of the bottles was filled with the liquid when we found them. The most recovered from any
quart bottle was about a pint. As I explained to you, our problem has been deciding whether we were dealing with cherry brandy or brandy cherries! I am sure that this inability on my part to understand what you have told me is the result of woolly thinking. But, if any further thoughts come to you on how this analysis can be explained in layman's term of not more than one syllable, I should be delighted to hear of it.

Do please keep us advised of your continuing studies at Bennett's Point; it all sounds extremely interesting, and we hope that one day the product of it will be published.

With warm personal regards, and again many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Ivor Noel Hume
Director
Department of Archaeology

Copy to:
Mr. William Kelso
Division of Archeology  
18 Jan 73

Mr. John Ludlow  
211 Edgewood Drive  
Edgewood Hills  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Dear John:

Many thanks for filling me in on your work at Bennett's Point. I am pleased that you are in contact with Noël Hume concerning the project, and I look forward to paying you a visit when you get underway again.

I've assigned the site number 18 QU 28 in my records. For my purpose, I would assign the various houses or other structures letters added to the end of the number, i.e., the 16th century house you are digging would be 18 QU 28A or, for short, QU 28A. I offer this only as a suggestion.

There was an article on Richard Bennett III in the Baltimore Sunday Sun supplement several weeks ago. I have since misplaced it, but will save it for you if you have not seen it.

Steve Israel recently wrote to me that he had met you, and as he has had a great deal of experience in archeology he should be of some help to you.

I issue an annual newsletter in which I attempt to briefly summarize all archeological activities. I am a bit behind schedule, but hope to have the newsletter covering 1972 completed by March. I would like to include a short paragraph on your project at Bennett's Point which I can extract from the information you have sent, but it would be better if you could prepare a statement of your own. Since the newsletter is widely distributed, I would simply say that the site was located on Wye River in order to protect the site from unwanted investigators.

Sincerely,

Tyler Bastian  
State Archeologist
Mr. John Ludlow  
211 Edgewood Drive  
Edgewood Hills  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809  

Dear John:  

Many thanks for filling me in on your work at Bennett's Point. I am pleased that you are in contact with Noël Hume concerning the project, and I look forward to paying you a visit when you get underway again.  

I've assigned the site number 13 QU 28 in my records. For my purpose, I would assign the various houses or other structures letters added to the end of the number, i.e., the 16th century house you are digging would be 13 QU 28A, or, for short, QU 28A. I offer this only as a suggestion.  

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Sincerely,  

Tyler Bastian  
State Archeologist  

TB/nab
Dear John:

I believe your pipe was made by one ROBERT BURRILL of Hull, England, sometime between 1683 and 1700.

Adrian Oswald read a paper at the Victoria and Albert Museum on April 26, 1969 and his remarks were published in the "Trans. Eng. Ceramic Circle, Vol. 7, Pt. 3, 1970. On page 241 of this publication appears the following notation: "RB with tobacco plant between in relief on base. Robert Burrill (Hull) 1683 Free. The heavy bulbous bowl is typical of Yorkshire pipes, c. 1650-1700". Note: Hull is in Yorkshire.

On page 250 of the same publication he shows a drawing of a pipe somewhat similar in shape but smaller than yours and the drawing of the incuse mark on the base is the same size as yours but slightly divergent in form.*

Thomas Sheppard, Curator of the Hull Museum wrote a paper on Hull pipes entitled "EARLY HULL TOBACCO PIPES AND THEIR MAKERS". This was Hull Museum Publications, No. 6 and dated September 1912. On page 8 of this publication he writes:"Robert Burrill, apprentice to Henry Norman, Admitted a freeman August 2nd, 1683.

On page 22 he shows the marks of four RB pipes accompanied with the following note:"FOUR CLAY TOBACCO PIPES, round bowls; heels flat, stamped with the initials R.B., of Robert Burrill, in four forms. Period c., 1683. Found during excavations in Hull. *

A comparison between the mark on your pipe and the marks he illustrates leaves no doubt in my mind that yours is indeed a Robert Burrill pipe.

The stem hole diameter of your pipe is 7/64" which fits into Harrington's date range of 1650-80 and Walker's of 1600-1700.

Thanks for the privilege of studying your pipe - it's been a pleasure tracking it down.

Best wishes,

L. T. Alexander

John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

* Photo copies of these two pages enclosed.

Also a photo copy of a drawing I made of the pipe mark
ROBERT BURRELL PIPE 1683-1700
HULL, ENGLAND
EXCAVATED AT BENNETT'S POINT, MD.
BY JOHN L. LUDLOW

L.T.A. JAN 20, 1972
(11) **Four Clay Tobacco Pipes**, round bowls; heels flat, stamped with the initials R.B., of Robert Burrill, in four forms. Period c. 1683. Found during excavations in Hull.

(12) **Two Clay Tobacco Pipes**, small round bowls; heels flat, heart-shaped, stamped with the initials G.C., not identified. Possibly not by a Hull maker. Found during excavations in High Street, Hull.
BENNETT'S POINT PIPE
NOTES
John Ludlow

RB - 29 makers using "RB"

1616 to 1851

Atkinson - maker's mark found in London.
"RB" on four different types of pipe - all different
marks in relief - a 17th century mark
one on heel of a bowl

Only Bennett & Robert 1646 working at Beverley (must be
maker of none other than Bennett)

Date of this mark - 1660-1685

Enlarged

Actual
SIZE

Mark on face of heel

This is general shape of pipe with the
RB mark drawn above. Actual
pipe would be slightly larger

There are other RB marks but all are either on the back of bowl
or on stem.

3 leaf crest + fleur de lis with RB under - in relief - no rounding

See Note - Hume "Artifacts of Colonial America" Type 10 1650-1680

(RICHARD) BERRYMAN - working at Bristol 1619-1652 worked
this pipe on bottom of heel that no fleur de lis. He separated the
RB B with a daggers and heart.

Mr. John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19809.

Dear John:

This will confirm my phone call to you last night.

Last month I sent a photocopy of the drawing I made of your RB pipe to Adrian Oswald of England wrote to him as follows: "I am quite sure it is a Robert Burrill pipe of Hull and am enclosing a photocopy of a drawing I made of it along with the mark which appears on the bottom of the large heel. This is the first Robert Burrill of Hull pipe I've heard of being found in the States."

Oswald replied, in his letter of January 26, 1973, as follows:

"I agree on your Burrill pipe, Parsons type 35-6 - 1650-90, duplicates at Hull, York and Beverly. York and Hull pipes occur at Port Royal. I agree they are rare in America!"

Best regards.

L. T. Alexander
735 Ambleside Drive
Westminster, Wilmington
Delaware 19808.
Mr. Tyler Bastian  
State Archeologist  
Maryland Geological Survey  
Latrobe Hall  
The Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

February 11, 1973

Dear Tyler:

Enclosed is a brief outline of the work on Bennett's Point. I took your advice and indicated the Wye River location because I do not want "unwanted investigators" queering the deal with the present owners. I would be glad, of course, to have any person come down, if they contact me before hand.

The owner is moving fast with his development plans and plot sales, so I may have a hectic and non-ideal situation this year. I will keep you informed.

I was in Alexandria, Virginia on January 31, 1973 and dropped in on Carl and Ruth Miller, and they indicated you had worked with Carl years ago. They seem to be in good health and excellent spirits, and the hour I spent with them was sheer delight. We had not seen each other for about six years.

I will use your site number, 18 QU 28 and will indicate each of the features with letter subscripts. I feel much better about my records now that I have this number.

I have the article on Richard Bennett III from the Baltimore Sunday Sun, and I understand from Father Carley that the author, Dickson Preston, is writing a book on RB. I plan to contact DP to see if he has any information on the location and size of houses on Bennett's Point during the 17th and 18th centuries. My library researches have yielded little thus far.

I have also been in communication with Dr. H. Chandlee Forman and hope he can come over to see the foundations when I have them exposed again so he can give me his thoughts, particularly on the pits.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Ludlow

John L. Ludlow  
211 Edgewood Drive  
Wilmington, Delaware  
19809
Excavations were carried out in late 1972 by John L. Ludlow and co-workers from Wilmington, Delaware, on a historical site on the Wye River. A foundation of a sizeable house (22 x 80 feet) has been exposed. There are the remains of back-to-back fireplaces with brick and stone hearths and the base of a stairway to the second floor. The most interesting features are two brick-lined pits immediately in front of each of the hearths. These pits are well-made and have brick or stone bottoms which are not liquid-tight. It is presumed they were used for dry storage. Mr. Ludlow would be interested in learning of similar features found elsewhere and what their use may have been. In 1973 it is planned to extend and deepen these foundation excavations to define better the extent of the house so that it can be compared with a house indicated in a 17th century inventory and to better establish its age. The present timespan for its occupation is estimated to be about 1660 to less than 1800. The house is probably indicated on the Augustine Herrmann map of 1673.

Excavations in previous seasons in the area have resulted in the following interesting artifacts: a mid-18th century bottle with contents which are about 99.5 percent water, a Roman septertius of the Emperor Nero, and mid-18th century pipe stem fragments which are most unusual in that they have white spots resulting from a painted, dark background. (John L. Ludlow)
Excavations were carried out in late 1972 by John I. Ludlow and co-workers from Wilmington Delaware on a historical site on the Wye River. A foundation of a sizeable house (22 x 80 feet) has been exposed. There are the remains of back-to-back fireplaces with brick and stone hearths and the base of a stairway to the second floor. The most interesting features are two brick-lined pits immediately in front of each of the hearths. These pits are well-made and have brick or stone bottoms which are not liquid-tight. It is presumed they were used for dry storage. Mr. Ludlow would be interested in learning of similar features found elsewhere and what their use may have been.

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Excavations in previous seasons in the area have resulted in the following interesting artifacts: a mid-18th century bottle with contents which are about 99.5 percent water, a Roman sestertius of the Emperor Nero and mid-18th century pipe stem fragments which are most unusual in that they have white spots resulting from a painted, dark background.
Wants me to visit, evaluate, and give moral support.

He has written to me to visit site soon.

Thinks the cemetery should be saved - 4 years.
2 Barretts, Thomas been at a mass in manner of governor 1677. 1679.

Ludlow thinks there was a chapel here.

Found a brick walk that may be to chapel.

Father Curley, Centerville, has been helpful.

I suggested national register.
September 3, 1973

Dr. H. Chandlee Forman
P. O. Box 807
Easton, Maryland 21601

Dear Dr. Forman:

I hope that you are over your inconvenience with the infected knee! I can sympathize because such annoyances can keep us from doing all those things we thrive on.

I would have answered sooner but had to wait a long time for the photographs; they arrived the day we were leaving for three and one-half weeks in Europe and since then I have been busy getting a freshman son off to college. I hope the picture still can be of interest to you.

The enclosed pictures are not as good as I expected to have, but they are probably the best possible from the colored slides. I had planned to take high-level black and whites but could not because permission to continue the dig was denied.

I believe the pits before the fireplaces are unusual and are worthy of note in your book.

The best photograph is marked "A". The view is toward the south and the south foundation wall (English bond) is clearly evident. The north wall, which has been severely damaged by plowing, is evident in the lower left corner. The "H" fireplace base and the brick/limestone hearths have been scalped by plowing. The chimney base was laid in English bond. I have enclosed a sketch of the foundation which should help in understanding the picture.

The four pits have inside dimensions as follows: (inches)
1 (lower left hand) 24" x 30" x 36½"
2 (upper left hand) 26 x 37 x 53
3 (upper right hand) 32 x 36½ x 43
4 (lower right hand) 28 x 28 x 37½

* The depths are below the hearth level.

Pits 1 and 2 have a common bottom of, primarily, smooth limestone slabs supplemented by bricks. No mortar was used in the bottom. The sides are placed on the floor, are well-made with no holes and are laid in ordinary bond. These walls are still almost completely covered with smooth plaster. Pits 3 and 4 have brick bottoms without mortar. Their walls are not as well-laid, as those of 1 and 2, as there are gaps in the courses and the west end of 3 has bricks laid up as stretchers without overlapping. These differences suggest that 1 and 2 were installed at a different time than the other pair.

Pits 1, 2 and 3 were filled primarily with demolition rubble-mortar, plaster and hand-wrought nails. Pit 3 contained some charred boards which were roughly parallel to the charred
floor boards around the pit. These boards may have been from a wooden cover; however, they could have been from the walls etc. There were no dateable artifacts and no indications suggesting the utility of these pits.

Pit 4 had been covered by the wooden floor because the charred floor boards extended over it. The pit contents were entirely different from those of the others. The fill was probably from a midden in that it was sand and kitchen trash. The date of filling was after 1740 and probably no later than 1800 as the latest age of the artifacts over the entire foundation appears to be no later than about 1800, based on the current evaluation of the artifacts. (For example, fragments of a single bottle in the rubble layer over the charred floor date from between 1750 and 1790.)

These pits were probably used for food storage. Pits before fire-places apparently were not uncommon, although I have found no references to masonry-lined pits. Thus, I. Noël Hume shows an "unexplained hole" before a fireplace of a mid-seventeenth century house in "Historical Archaeology" (page 228). He wrote me that Dr. William Kelso, archaeological historian for the Virginia Historical Landmarks Commission, has found similarly located pits, some of which appeared to have been wood-lined. Noël Hume classifies these pits as root cellars. The only reference I have found to food storage pits is in "Rivers of the Eastern Shore" by Hurlbert Footner where he writes (page 285): "In front of the fireplace there was a boarded-over pit where the sweet potatoes were kept in winter." (This was in a dirt-floored cabin of the slaves.)

The foundations at the site are complex. There are two, another is to the east toward the Wye River, that are generally in line. However, there are wide gaps between them and there was not enough time to allow a better definition. The structure shown in the photographs was probably used as a farmer's dwelling when it burned because farming utensils were prominent within the foundation walls. Thus, three grubbing hoes, an axe head, two sickles and a hammer head, were found with kitchen and other household items including a two-tined fork, numerous straight pins, a thimble, many bottle and pottery fragments etc.

The above detail is more than needed for your use of the picture. However, I would be interested in any experience you have had with "fireplace pits", your thoughts on the latest age for the fireplaces (because this may be the best indicator of the age of the house—a date before 1674 is possible for early structures on the site because of a 1674 death recorded in the nearby cemetery) and the identification of the feature shown on picture "B". This consists of several layers of brick mortared to a limestone slab. The inside dimensions of the hole are 10 x 11". The structure is next to the north
foundation, 21" from the northwest corner. The floor boards covered the bricks on one side and not the center. The contents, dirt and one piece of iron, suggest no clue to its use. It could have been a safe if the house was the store that Richard Bennett had on the site; however, this is probably fanciful conjecture. It appeared to have been filled in before the house was destroyed. There was no side or bottom opening; however, one unmortared joint was noted above the bottom in a vertical joint.

If the picture can be used, I will be delighted! In any event I would like to have all of them back when you are finished with them; there is no hurry. Also, I would greatly value your thoughts on the above questions, when you have time. If I can assist you in any way, let me know.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Dr.,
Wilmington, Del.
19809
302-764-3817
Feature "B"

Bennett's Point House
by John L. Ludlow - 1973

Small brick-lined square pit or box under floor
at N. corner of room (inside)

Bennett's Point House
Photo by John L. Ludlow - 1973
211 Edgewood Dr.
Wilmington, Del.

View looking South wall (English bond)
String "H" shaped fireplace & 4 pits
Dear John:

I wrote to Noël and put the question of his name directly to him. He wrote right back and the pertinent part of his letter reads thus:

"The surname is in two parts I.E. Noël Hume. Normally one would suppose that it would have a hyphen; however, that was not put in on my birth certificate and I have been stuck with this unwieldy name ever since. It usually means that I get billed twice."

This probably explains why the telephone co. has him under H as Hume. So, I guess that this settles the question, once and for all. Ned Heite uses Noé"l Hume.

As a reward for making the correct guess, I have enclosed a Xerox copy of a Xerox copy that I got at Clements Library and a nice 8x10 glossy print made from the good 8x10 print that I got from there.

Dick had your comments on the ms.

Cordially,

Elwood

1780
September 28, 1974.

Mr. John L. Ludlow
211 Edgewood Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19809.

Dear John:

BENNETT POINT CLAY PIPES

I have completed my research on the seven pipe fragments you recovered from your dig at Bennett Point and comment on each one separately as follows:

#1. - "WE" on back of bowl. This was made by one of two William Evenses and it's impossible to separate them. It was made in Bristol, England where the first William Evans obtained his Freedom in 1660 and in the same year the other Evans was placed on the apprentice rolls (probably the son of Wm. Evans No. 1.) Both were working in 1682 and one until 1697 so you can safely date the pipe somewhere between 1660 and 1700.

#2. - "WG" or "LG" on bottom of heeless and spurless bowl. This is a London-shaped bowl form and would date toward the end of the 17th century. Incidentally, heeless and spurless pipes were unusual at this time. Similar pipes were found in Virginia - see Bulletin of the Virginia Arch. Soc. Vol. 22, No. 2 December 1967. Similar bowl forms are illustrated in Atkinson & Oswald's LONDON CLAY TOBACCO PIPES, 1969, Fig. 2 #24. Because of the break at the bottom of the bowl it is impossible for me to determine which, i.e., "WG" or "LG", this is.

#3. - "T/?" on side of prominent heel and "4" on bottom of heel. This is definitely a Dutch-made pipe and would fall in the period 1730-1750. The initials on the side of the spur are probably "T" and there were several makers to which the pipe might be attributed: Teunis van Dievere 1736-1759 or Teunis Kool, 1736-1746.

#4. - "TI" on sides of heel. This is a typical London bowl form of the 1700-1770 period. I suggest it was made by Thomas Jury c. 1750 although there are two other possibilities: Thomas Johnson - Gravesend apprentice Rolls 1726 and Thomas Tatum - London Freedom Rolls 1720.

#5. - "Scales" on bottom of heel. This is another Dutch pipe fragment and would date from c. 1700-1730. The date was suggested by Adrian Oswald of England - one of the world's leading clay pipe authorities.

#6. - "Crowned Harp" on both sides of heel. Similarly marked pipes found in London (where it was probably made) and Williamsburg. It would date c. 1700-1740. See drawing (of similarly marked pipe recovered at Williamsburg) attached to these notes. Observe the difference in the crowns.

#7. - There are not enough diagnostic traits on this fragment to determine date, maker, or country of origin.
BENNETT POINT CLAY PIPES

Summary of suggested dates and origin.

#1 - c. 1660-1700  Bristol, England.
#2 - c. 1675-1700  London, England
#3 - c. 1730-1750  Holland
#4 - c. 1750       London, England
#5 - c. 1700-1730  Holland
#6 - c. 1700-1740  London, England

I hope this information will not only be of interest but help to establish or confirm dates of other material recovered in the same archaeological contexts.
Thanks for letting me study your pipe fragments.

Best regards,

L. T. Alexander
735 Ambleside Drive
Westminster, Wilmington
Delaware 19808.

In my letter of January 19, 1973 I commented on the Robert Burrill pipe, also from Bennett Point, and attached a photo-copy of a drawing I made of the pipe. I just noticed I misspelled Burrill at the top of the drawing, using an "e" instead of an "i".

Also, since writing I have learned that duplicates of the Burrill pipe were found at not only Hull but York and Beverly, England. Further pipes with marks similar to the York and Hull styles were recovered at Port Royal. They are Rare in America!
Coin From Bennett's Point, Md.

The attached X-rayographs of the blanched, severely oxidized and encrusted coin found at Bennett's Pt. confirm the minor observation of perforation near one edge. This is believed to have resulted from localized melting and subsequent corrosion-oxidation in the ground.

The coin was a bronze one, probably well worn and thinned. It had obviously been in a fire, being heavily blanched by CuO formation. It was also encrusted with cemented sand and green copper oxidation product formed along breaks in the external oxide scale.

The combination of surface scale and encrustation could not be removed by prolonged ultrasonic cleaning. I had concluded that no surface detail remained of the coin which might permit its identification. Even so, it is unfortunate that it disappeared one day when it was being subjected to further treatment in an ultrasonic bath. Old coins even completely illegible ones, must attract light-fingered individuals.

Norman A. Nielsen
John —

Spent some time with Vic Hansen today (wooh.) — This is what he has been doing. He tried to explain how we could put quantitative values on them — 🙄 I am defeated.... enclosed the forms he gave me....

Graphs — my idea — just to see how Buttons compared.... then did others —

Let me know what you think —
January 1973

Mary:

Here are the copies of the latest documents from the MD. Hope. The RBI.

Proceed are of great interest because of the few gems of insight they contain - eg.

"Neddy's wife living with ERB [?]; RJS considering moving in with Neddy but [not] be cause business was too much & Neddy failing eyesight - Remarkably describing views of will give FC a copy - Thomas change his name to Edward Lloyd, The executor - obviously the inventory
of James Dickinson is a novel to look up when next at Annapolis.

Wm. Irwin

[Handwritten signature]
Dear Mrs. Warluis,

Enclosed are the notes I spoke to you about over the phone.

I am looking forward to our trip to Read home this spring.

Sincerely,

Verna Markley Eckhardt

Feb. 20th
The following notes were taken from:

*The Hollyday and Related Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* by

James Readley.

p 67 refers to a monograph, never yet published, the work of Miss Anne Beales, of Washington, for the present owner of "Reed House," which gives, in extenso, the story of the old plantation and home. It is a valuable work and goes to the time of fact.

I think this is the record, Mrs. I. P. Conkle, gave me to read when I visited Reed House in 1907. The article was given to her by the former owner of Reed House, Mrs. Tarkesock.

She has Tarkesock for, owner in 1903.
Mr. Ludlow: A personal inquiry -- I am planning to use the photography that I took of the Bennett's Point sestertius of Nero in my new book on collecting. I mentioned this to Mary Watkins a long time ago, and I have credited it to her. But now I am wondering whether this is proper. Who owns the coin, and do I need to get someone else's permission to illustrate it? I should add that I am not discussing the Bennett's Point site, but only the Roman coins that have been found on American colonial sites. Your advice will be greatly appreciated. INH
February 26, 1970

Mr. David E. Williams
Ryelands,
57 King George Street,
Shotton
Deeside
Flintshire
North Wales
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am referring your letter to a number of people in Delaware who are more familiar with English ceramics from colonial sites in the state. I will attempt to learn what I can by examining our own limited collections from these sites but expect that you will receive information from these other sources more readily than you would from this organization.

There is quite a bit of interest in Colonial Archaeology in America and certainly in the State of Delaware and we are attempting at the present time to acquire the services of an Historic Archaeologist.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald A. Thomas
State Archaeologist

RAT: dr
cc: Mr. J. Ludlow
    Dr. D. Marine
    Dr. A. Schiek
    Mr. C. A. Weslager
    Mr. E. Wilkins

Can you help this gentleman with his inquiry?
Mr. Ronald A. Thomas,
State Archaeologist,
Delaware State Archaeological Board,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

I am compiling facts and figures for a paper dealing with the extent of the export trade from the pottery manufactories at BUCKLEY, in the county of Flint, North Wales, during the eighteenth century.

Specimens of Buckley earthenware have been found in archaeological excavation in several parts of America, dating from the Colonial period. The records and accounts books appertaining to these potteries are preserved at the Flintshire County Records Office, but I am afraid that they yield scant evidence of the trade to the American colonies. The earthenware was carted by horses to the banks of the River Dee, some four miles distance from Buckley, thence by small coastal vessels to the port of Liverpool. The first pottery was founded in 1737 by Jonathan Catherall, and it is possible that he was exporting his wares to America before Josiah Wedgwood, this being facilitated by the nearness of Catherall's manufactory to a natural waterway - the Dee, and within easy reach of Liverpool. Another pottery was opened a few years later by Catherall's son-in-law William Hancock.

Exports of earthenware to various parts of America are enumerated in a List of Exports for the year 1770 in W.Emfield's History of Liverpool. Similar lists appear elsewhere, but do not indicate the place of manufacture of the pottery exported via the port of Liverpool.

I am anxious to trace findings of Buckley earthenware at Colonial sites throughout America - as many as possible, thus enabling me to build up a comprehensive picture of this early trade.

I would be pleased if you could inform me whether examples of this utilitarian ware have been found in the State of Delaware, and whether there are documentary references extant appertaining to this pottery, which, in the eighteenth century, usually took the form of broad, shallow milk 'pans'; taller, narrower 'pan mugs'; water pitchers; broad platters and posset cups, with the characteristic DARK BROWN or BLACK glaze.

I would be extremely grateful if you could give me any information concerning this subject.

Yours faithfully,

David E. Williams