



Can you identify this Object?

See the back for answer.



January, 2013

## Robert E Lee III to Make Presentation on Outhouse Archaeology at January Meeting

The January meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held on January the 29th at 7:00 PM in the Duryea Municipal building at 311 Main St., Duryea, PA. The meeting is open to the public and the presentation is free of charge. Robert E Lee III will be presenting a very unique program about the artifacts and stories he has unearthed in his digs of historic era outhouses. Several of these excavations will be featured in his talk. Robert started digging as a hobby to recover pottery for historical and educational displays he was creating. As with many amateur archaeologists, his interests started with the artifacts and excitement of the the find and grew into an interest in the stories and the information those items reveal. During the time he has been involved in finding and digging up old outhouses, he has developed a great appreciation of the history buried in these humble structures.

Robert studied art education and ceramics at Kutztown State College. He displays and /or demonstrates old pottery techniques at the Warrior Run Reenactments, conducts a public dig at the Danville Iron Heritage events and hosts a huge display at the Bloomsburg Fair. His goal is to add to the already known historical information from local communities and present them to the public. We are pleased that he will be sharing his experiences and knowledge with our members and guests at this month's meeting.

This talk was rescheduled from October due to Hurricane Sandy.

### Elections, Dues and Plans for the New Year

February is the time when we elect officers for the year and as a result we need to establish a slate of officers. Any one interested in serving the chapter as an officer or knows someone else that they would like to serve as an officer is requested to nominate them either at our January meeting or by mail (E or snail) prior to our February meeting. Officers must be members in good standing of the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology.

Just a reminder, the dues for our chapter of SPA for 2013 are now payable. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. Unpaid memberships are purged from our rolls in March. As always, encourage your interested friends to join us as members.

We will probably be moving the port at the Coxton excavation site sometime early next season. We will be moving back to the area near the historic foundation. Pre-historic artifacts found in the fill of the old foundation this past season have been very interesting and warrant a revisiting of this part of the site. In addition, the discovery of an earlier foundation wall to the west of the already excavated cellar gives hope for finding a lot more about the European settlement of the Wyoming Valley. Hand made brick of a very early style is making the 2013 season look very promising.

Do you know anyone who would be a good speaker for one of our meetings, or do you think that you may have information to share with the Chapter. We are always looking for new speakers to share their knowledge or experiences with the group. Our membership is a valuable resource. If interested, contact us at tedbaird@verizon.net

### Come work for me, you don't have to pay me much!

Becoming bound by eternal, unquestioning servitude as someone's property is not likely most people's career of choice. 2200 years ago, however, it seems some Egyptians voluntarily signed up to become temple slaves. Not only that, they even paid a monthly fee for the "privilege." The revelation comes from the work of Egyptologist Kim Ryholt of the University of Copenhagen, who has been studying papyrus slave contracts found in a rubbish dump in the ancient Egyptian temple city of Tebtunis. "I am your servant from this day onwards, and I shall pay 2½ copper-pieces every month as my slave-fee before Soknebtunis, the great god." This is part of the translation of 100 of these papyrus slave contracts that Ryholt has spent years trying to collect and analyse. Among his findings was that these voluntary slaves also signed up their descendants. "I am your servant with my children and the children of my children," read the contracts, which were written in Demotic script – an ancient Egyptian language. Ultimately, the real mystery is why anybody would willingly become a slave. Ryholt argues that these individuals were not driven by some inexplicable masochist streak but were poor individuals at the bottom of the social hierarchy seeking asylum from a worse fate: forced labour. This loophole for escaping forced labour was likely only open during a 60 year period from around 190 BC to 130 BC..

### What is this Object

#### Musket's Bullet Mold.

This type of mold is called a scissors mold and is made of cast iron. The specimen is a bit pitted due to wear and tear, but still works very well when it comes to casting bullets. It looks similar to a pair of pliers, except that the jaws enclose a hollow spherical section in between them. To cast a ball, the user melts a quantity of lead in a container. Then he closes the mold and pours in some lead through the hole on top. The lead quickly cools and solidifies inside the mold. Next, the user opens the jaws by manipulating the scissor arms and extracts the bullet. This bullet is mostly spherical except for a tiny bit of projecting metal, called the sprue which is formed by lead hardening in the hole through which the lead was poured through. There is usually a thin parting line formed around the ball as well, along the line where the mold opens. The lead bullet is taken out and then the sprue and parting lines are filed off, to leave behind a spherical bullet.

**FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11  
2013  
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