



Grant Augments Archaeology Web Project

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has received a \$570,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the expansion of the Digital Archaeological Archive of Chesapeake Slavery, an innovative Web-based resource that offers standardized information from archaeological sites where enslaved Africans and their descendants once lived and worked.

The site – www.daacs.org – currently offers easy access to quantitative data about artifacts and the archaeological contexts from which they were excavated at Monticello, Mount Vernon, Poplar Forest, Stratford Plantation, and the Williamsburg area.

The Mellon Foundation grant, which was awarded in October 2004, will allow the scope of the project to be expanded to include additional locations in Virginia and sites in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Jamaica.

Reflecting this expanded range, the archive has been renamed the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery.

Jillian Galle, who has managed the DAACS project since its inception in 2000, believes that the new grant will have a significant impact on researchers'

insight into slavery throughout the Atlantic world. "The addition of data from sites outside Virginia will enable us to understand better the



A 1781 coin likely worn as an ornament by a slave at Monticello.

historical consequences of variation in enslaved people's African origins, and the disease environments and labor requirements they faced in the New World," she said.

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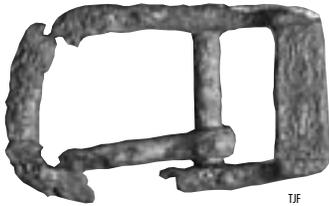
Monticello



Archaeology Project

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Since going online in February 2004, the DAACS site has averaged nearly 3,000 unique visitors per month. These visitors are making use of the site's highly standardized archaeological data, as well as artifact



A harness buckle unearthed at Monticello.

images, maps, and research resources. Because DAACS employs common terminology to describe the artifacts and the contexts of their excavation, its users can make seamless comparisons among archaeological findings from different locations, research that was nearly impossible prior to DAACS.

By providing wide access to extensive archaeological data, DAACS aims to foster greater understanding of cultural, social, and economic aspects of the slave-based societies that evolved in the Atlantic region from the early 1700s to the mid-1800s. It also serves as a model for use of the Web to advance new types of scholarly collaboration and data sharing among researchers working in a single region and historical period.

"We are enormously grateful to the Mellon Foundation for supporting our efforts to advance understanding of slave-based plantations like Monticello in an Atlantic context and to break new methodological ground in the discipline of archaeology," said Fraser D. Neiman, director of archaeology at Monticello.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, based in New York, makes grants in higher education, museums and art conservation, performing arts, conservation and the environment, and public affairs. A \$600,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation in January 2000 provided initial funding for DAACS.

A horseshoe fragment from Monticello's collection of artifacts.



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