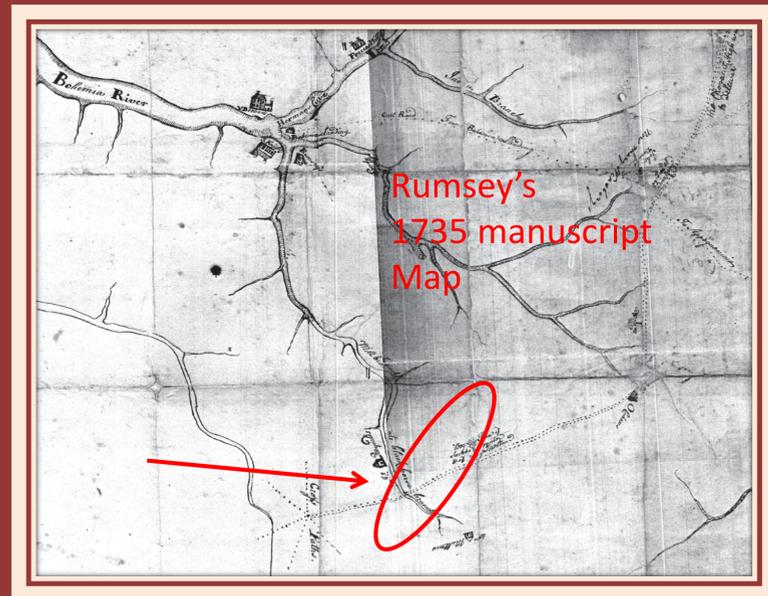


On the Border: Phase IB Archaeological Surveys for New U.S. Route 301 in Delaware and Maryland

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The border of Cecil County, MD and New Castle County, DE has been a crossroads since early colonial times. People, goods, trade – and ideas - moved on cart roads and highways between the Chesapeake and Delaware drainage and between different states in this area. Long considered an area unlikely to yield archaeological sites, surveys for the new U.S. Route 301 toll highway are painting a different picture.



The Levels Road Mitigation basin and a 4-mile portion of the U.S. Route 301 mainline are located in the headwaters of the Bohemia and Sassafras Rivers, tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. RGA's 2008-2011 archaeological surveys located 11 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.



The five historic sites may represent the lives of tenants and farmers during the 18th and 19th centuries in this border area. Fine ceramics, wine glasses, bottles, coins, shoe buckles and thimbles, firearms, and other artifacts suggest day to day activities. The results of the surveys indicate this border area has much to tell us about the lives of important landowners like William Rumsey as well as ordinary tenant farmers, enslaved and free African Americans.



Ten sites represent the lives of Native Americans beginning about 8,000 years ago who hunted, camped, cooked, gathered foods, and made stone tools from local stones or ones imported from other areas.



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