

# *Smokin' Politics?!*



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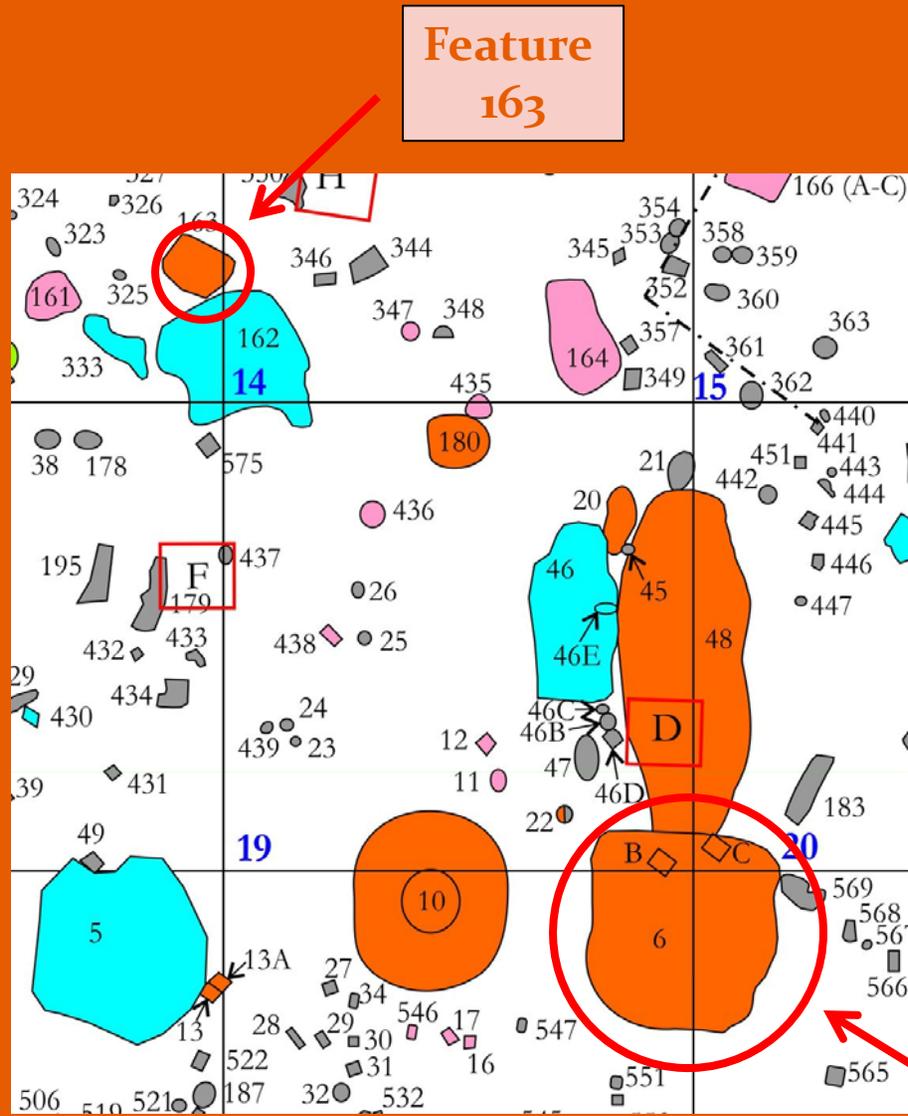
# 1740s to 1850s Tenant site on the border of Delaware and Maryland



*Rumsey/Polk  
Tenant/Prehistoric site  
(7K-F-112)*



Parts of the pipe came from Features 6 and 163, from the Circa 1800-1855 occupation

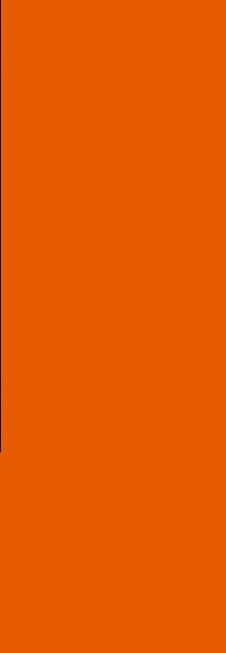
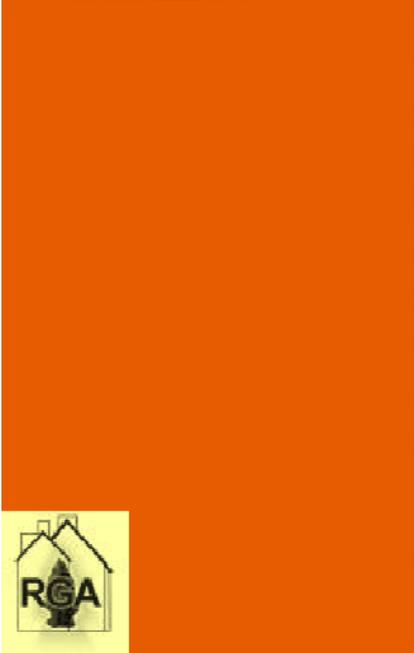


Feature 6

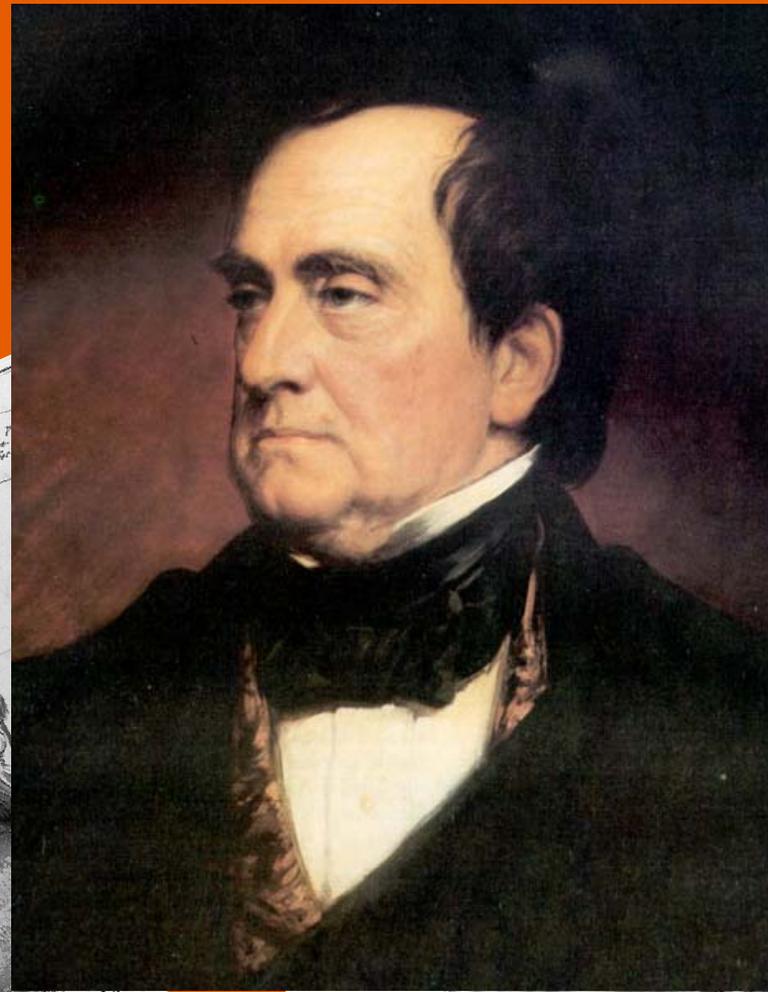
2 m

19<sup>th</sup> c. features  
18<sup>th</sup> c. features  
Undated features





# Lewis Cass



*Painting of Cass by Daniel Huntington, 1873*

<http://www.history.army.mil/books/sw-sa/Cass.htm>



Michael Gall, Adrienne Jarczewski, Dave Strohmeier, Mike Insetta, Phase II and III fieldcrew – Jen Danis and Monica Weetman, RGA personnel, and David Clarke and Kevin Cunningham of DelDOT.

*Artifact photographs by Allison Gall*



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(Slide 1) I am going to talk about an unusual smoking pipe from the Rumsey/Polk site near Middletown, Delaware. The site was excavated by RGA as part of DelDOT's new Route 301 highway. (Slide 2)

(Slide 3) This pipe was found in three fragments in two different pits out of this complicated site. Tenants lived here from about 1800 to about 1850 (although we don't know who they were). We found all kinds of dishes, dairy pans, tons of animal bones, horse bridle and stirrups, and lots of other stuff.

(Slide 4) Here are some views of it...Redware with a clear glaze. It shows a rather cartoonish image of a man with laurel leaves in his hair. First we thought it was a Roman or Caesar since in Roman times laurel leaves were worn by a triumphant General.

However, the laurel leaves here seem to represent another kind of triumph... that is political one.

This is one of a series of "President" pipes produced from the 1830s to the 1850s. They were made in Germany for export to the U.S. and later imitated by American manufacturers. Germany, England, and France exported millions of pipes of all kinds to the US- it's pretty clear people smoked like fiends in the 1800s! The pipes were called *stummelpfeiffen* or stub pipes and they were intended to be smoked with a reed or wooden stem.

This pipe resembles those made of Lewis Cass (Slide 5). Even though I had never heard of him, he was incredibly accomplished - a lawyer, General in the War of 1812, Governor of the Michigan Territory, senator from Michigan, ambassador to France, Secretary of War in one administration then Secretary of State under Buchanan...

Why a president pipe? Cass was the Democratic Party candidate in 1848. He lost the 3-way election to Whig Zachary Taylor, a big shot General and hero of the Mexican War - and a slave-owner. The other candidate was former president Martin Van Buren, from the Free Soil party, who were outspokenly opposed to slavery.

The nomination of Cass split the Democratic Party. Why?

Cass was the originator and a leading spokesman for the controversial *Doctrine of Popular Sovereignty* - also supported by Stephan A. Douglas of Illinois. In 1840s and 1850s U.S., this was the idea that the citizens of each new territory should decide for themselves whether to make slavery legal rather than have a big national fight over it. This idea was mostly supported by Northern Democrats since they thought it was a compromise on slavery. But in reality it led to huge battles - and not just wars of words- over the Kansas territory, and the founding of the Republican Party as the anti-slavery party.

So this gives us some ideas about one guy - or gal- in Delaware -who like many other Northern Democrats may have wanted a compromise on slavery even though the Middletown area was a hotbed of abolitionism.

Reading about these issues in the 1800s puts our present-day politics into perspective. Slavery was a huge issue that just could not be compromised on! (Slide 6)