Dr. Howell studied at Harvard College and Oxford in England before joining the staff of the Harvard Natural History Museum in Cambridge in 1950, where he is chief curator today. In the 1950s and 60s, he was chief archeologist of Colonial Williamsburg and has been very active in many historical projects in the Tidewater and Chesapeake areas. He is the noted author of several popular books on archaeology that focus on Virginia and Maryland in colonial times. He is considered the noted expert on Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay area during the 17th century.

This page is part of the Smithsonian's The Secret in the Cellar Webcomic, an educational resource from the Written in Bone exhibition, February 2009 - 2014.