



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

March 2020

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CNEHA Has a Permanent Address for Its Website:  
<http://www.cneha.org/>

## COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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*Northeast Historical Archaeology* seeks manuscripts dealing with historical archaeology in the Northeast region, including field reports, artifact studies, and analytical presentations (e.g., physical anthropology, palynology, faunal analysis, etc.). We also welcome commentary and opinion pieces. To submit a manuscript or request preparation of manuscript guidelines, write to Maria O'Donovan, Editor, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*, c/o Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000. [odonovan@binghamton.edu](mailto:odonovan@binghamton.edu)

### CNEHA Facebook Page

CNEHA has a Facebook page! Log onto Facebook and then search for Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology to see announcements about conferences and other updates.



You can join us on Twitter now too! @CNEHA\_org

## UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: Maria O'Donovan

Hello everyone! First, an update on the production schedule for *Northeast Historical Archaeology*. Volume 47, which has a thematic section from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and contributed articles on heritage, faunal butchering practices, and smoking pipes, will be in your mailboxes soon. We have another thematic section on Fredericksburg, Virginia, scheduled for Volume 48 along with contributed articles on tavern assemblage patterning and window leads. Volume 48 is scheduled for publication in Fall of 2020. We are pushing to get back on our regular publication schedule by Fall of 2021 and are evaluating the production process to improve turn-around time without impacting journal quality.

I have very exciting news about a new journal section that will feature brief studies of material culture. The idea for this section comes from Sherene Baugher and she will be the content editor for it. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* has an established tradition of material culture studies; the new section will build on this through focused research on specific artifact types that are often overlooked in mass data analysis. These substantive studies can address a variety of topics on small finds in a short article format. If you have an idea for one of these brief studies, please contact me at [neha@binghamton.edu](mailto:neha@binghamton.edu) for more information.

We have thematic sections on working class heritage, Strawberry Banke, and Newfoundland and Labrador slated for future volumes. Contributed articles are always welcome, and we have been publishing these along with thematic sections in a combined journal format. I am very happy to receive submissions of contributed articles and hear your ideas about content that you would like to see in the journal. I want this journal to reflect our membership and their research and perspectives so, please, keep the articles and ideas coming!

**Ordering information for back issues of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* and Telling Time posters:**  
e-mail me at [neha@binghamton.edu](mailto:neha@binghamton.edu) or visit our web page at <https://www.binghamton.edu/programs/public-archaeology-facility/neha/ordering.html>. Posters are priced at \$10.00 each plus shipping and back issues of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* at \$10.00-\$13.00 plus shipping.

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### Email Addresses

Please update your email address (as necessary). You may do this through the CNEHA website, <http://www.cneha.org/>

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Reported by: David Starbuck

Please send me copy for the June 2020 issue (No. 106) of the CNEHA Newsletter by June 1 to ensure that the newsletter is ready to go on-line by late June.

### Provincial Editors:

ATLANTIC CANADA: Amanda Crompton, Dept. of Archaeology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5S7. [ajcrompton@mun.ca](mailto:ajcrompton@mun.ca)

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MASSACHUSETTS: This position is now open. If you are interested, please contact David Starbuck.

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VIRGINIA: Laura E. Masur, Archaeology Program, Boston University. [lemasur@bu.edu](mailto:lemasur@bu.edu)

WEST VIRGINIA: This position is now open. If you are interested, please contact David Starbuck.

## MINUTES CNEHA BUSINESS MEETING LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK Sunday, November 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 A.M.

Approval of the minutes of the annual business meeting, Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Motion to accept the minutes as printed: Sara Mascia  
2nd: Richard Schaefer

The motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business

1. Chair's report: Karen Metheny

The Board is continuing to work on strategic planning and advocacy issues, most recently endorsing a letter to the US Senate regarding the importance of the African Burial Ground Network bill.

2. Secretary's report: Nancy Brighton

Nothing to report

3. Treasurer's report: Sara Mascia and Joe Last

The income for the U.S. account was \$19,891 with \$7,363 in expenditures, yielding a net income of \$12,528. There is a total of \$35,070 in the US checking account with \$10,106 reserved in a CD. This reserve may be used for future journal publication, as needed.

The Canadian account started with \$6,282.28, including a credit of \$1,245 from membership and no earned bank inter-

est. The Halifax Conference deposited \$4,328.85 for a total revenue of \$5,573.85. Total debits were \$111.87, which was for postage for the renewal notices. Net income for the year was \$5,461.91 for an ending balance of \$11,444.61.

CNEHA is positioned to pay for the next printing of the journal.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Maria O'Donovan 2nd. Sue Maguire

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Membership reports: Ed Morin and Joe Last

##### a. Individual US: Ed Morin (Read by Sara Mascia)

There is a total of 325 members: 163 individual, 26 student, 35 joint, 23 fellow, 19 retired, 23 institutional, 6 business and 30 life. There is also one member each from England and Australia.

##### b. Individual Canadian: Joe Last

Canadian membership for 2019 includes a total of 90 members: 40 individual, 12 students, 8 fellow, 12 joint, 11 business, 6 retired and 1 life. Representation by province consists of 3 from New Brunswick, 12 from Newfoundland, 13 from Nova Scotia, 46 from Ontario, 1 from Prince Edward Island, and 14 from Quebec.

Ontario continues to make up 50% of the Canadian membership. Nova Scotia decreased from 23 to 13 members and Newfoundland declined by 4 members. Maritime members who joined because of the conference did not retain membership in the following year(s), which represents a continual challenge to maintain and increase Canadian membership.

If you have not gotten a newsletter and/or journal, check with Sara Mascia, who has the membership address list.

##### c. Institutional: Meta Janowitz

The Institutional members are mostly from Canada; U.S. institutions need to step up.

Karen noted membership levels have increased which can be attributed in part to Stéphane Noël's new membership renewal flyer.

Motion to accept the Membership reports: John Martin 2nd: Sherene Baugher.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Publications and communications reports:

##### a. Newsletter: David Starbuck

The fall newsletter should have gotten out to everyone via email. The website now has a feature to update email addresses. If you did not receive a newsletter, be sure to go to the website and update your email address. Dennis Howe did layout for the newsletter. It has great photos; the newsletters have become so much more by going digital, which has allowed for a color format.

As always, send copy, and the newsletter is looking for new editors; reach out to David Starbuck if you are interested.

##### b. Journal: Maria O'Donovan

Maria thanked the membership for its patience for delays in the journal. The office has been working hard to get the publication schedule back on track. Volume 47 should be out in December 2019. Maria reminded everyone to check their mailing address with Sara to ensure it's up to date and the journals get delivered.

Volume 47 will have seven articles from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, looking at the human environment and landscape issues in Maryland's Delmarva Peninsula. It will also have three contributed articles consisting of notes on butchery signatures, a heritage house study, and a study of tobacco pipes on Smuttynose Island.

There are several thematic proposals including one for a Strawberry Banke archaeological retrospective and one on working class heritage. Volume 48 will have a thematic section on Fredericksburg, Virginia, and its archaeology, including a study of icehouses on plantations. There will also be a thematic section with several contributed papers.

In an upcoming issue – as yet to be determined – there will be a new section headed by Sherene Baugher that will focus on short studies of material culture, such as small finds that don't warrant full articles, but information that we would like to know more about. One example is Chinese coins on sewing baskets, which are of interest but would not be the focus of a full-length study. The goal is to have a few of these short articles in each issue in the upcoming years.

The journal's finances are in good shape.

Maria reminded everyone to send in articles – the journal is what the membership makes it. If you saw good papers at the conference tell Maria or suggest to the presenter that he or she submit the paper to the journal. New journal style guidelines will be available online. The guidelines have been updated to meet the 21st century (no substantive changes).

##### A. Web page: Travis Parno

Over the past year, work on the web page included minor organizational changes, shoring up security, and looking at other options for online conference information and membership updates. Travis thanked Christy Morgenstern for getting



information up on the website quickly and Silas Hurry for being available to answer questions.

a. Social media: Laura Masur, Travis Parno

CNEHA has Facebook and Twitter accounts. Contact Laura for Facebook content and Travis for Twitter. Also contact them if there is anything you would like to see on either account.

## 6. Programs and Meetings:

a. 2019 Lake George: David Starbuck, Michael Lucas

Mike noted changes in the location of this morning's session – they will be in Lake George South and career pathways will be in the Albany Room. He encouraged students should go to career pathways – it's free and there will be lots of information.

The registration numbers are about 130-135 with 31 on Warpath tour, 12-15 on Heart of Adirondacks tour; 18 people attended the workshop, and about 62 people attended the banquet.

Everyone attending the museum tour should drive him/herself to the museum. The registration table has directions. Meet at 1:30 pm at the museum and the tour will start at 2 PM; meet in main lobby.

Karen applauded David and Mike's efforts with the conference.

a. 2020 Plymouth, MA/Joint meeting with SHA/SPMA for 400th anniversary of Plymouth Colony: Karen Metheny and David Landon

Next year there will be a joint meeting with the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology in the newly renovated Hotel 1620, which has a great meeting space.

David recommended everyone pick up a "Save the Date," which will be the first weekend in November. The 400th Anniversary seems like a special time to meet in Plymouth (although close to the SHA meeting in 2020 which will be in Boston).

a. 2021 St. Mary's City: Travis Parno

Contract proposals for this conference will be submitted this year. Travis recommended everyone come to 2021-- details to follow.

b. 2022 Montreal: Stéphane Noël

Stéphane received a proposal from Pointe-à-Callière. The theme will be the relationship between people and water. Stéphane is looking for locations in old Montreal, where

there is great archaeology and great museums.

7. Awards Committee: Sara Mascia

At the banquet on Saturday night, David Starbuck was given the award of service.

8. Student Competition: Nancy Brighton

There were five students in this year's competition:

Eileen Bethune, Memorial University "that the whole may be made a prettie street": An analysis of the material cultural of the 17th century cobblestone street at Ferryland

Jeff Burnett, Michigan State University, "Community Archaeology in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts"

Genevieve Everett, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, "The Impacts of Volunteer Site Stewardship Programming: Fifty-six years (1892-1948) of Railroad and Logging Activities in the Pemigewasset Wilderness of the White Mountain National Forest"

John Michael Garbellano, State University of New York, Albany. "Shuck it Use of Oysters in New York"

Megan Postemski, University of Pennsylvania. "Putting Down Roots: Frontier Settlement and Land Use in Downeast Maine"

Thank you to each of them for the great papers and an opportunity to hear about new research. The winner of this year's competition is Eileen Bethune for her analysis of the cobblestone street and its associated artifact collection to provide a unique look at Ferryland. Eileen will receive a certificate suitable for framing and a \$100 prize and membership in CNEHA for 2020. Eileen is required and everyone is strongly encouraged to submit their papers to the journal for publication.

9. Other old business

Nothing to report.

## New Business

1. Result of 2019 Elections: Nancy Brighton

There were six candidates for five positions. Voting was held electronically using Survey Method and mailed ballots to those who do not have email address. A total of 69 ballots were received, resulting in the election of Barry Gaulton, Eva MacDonald, Ed Morin, Travis Parno and Tricia Samford to the Board.

2. Election of Officers (Executive Vice-Chair for US; Chair): Karen Metheny

Ed Morin was re-elected vice chair in absentia.

Karen is stepping down as chair after 15 years. Richard Veit has been elected to be the new chair. Karen has every confidence of moving the organization forward.

### 3. Other new business

Nothing to report.

### 4. Resolutions of Thanks to Outgoing Board Members Amanda Crompton and Henry Cary (Barry Gaulton)

Good morning Board members and conference attendees,

Whereas the term of office for two members of the Executive board for the Council for North East Historical Archaeology is expiring, the Council acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of Amanda Crompton and Henry Cary;

Amanda has served one term on the board and has been a vital member of several committees including: the Membership Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Bookroom and Exhibit Committee, and the Archives Committee.

Henry has served two terms on the board and has likewise been a vital member of several committees including: the Bookroom and Exhibit Committee, the sub-committee on Recruitment and the sub-committee on Students and Young Professionals. During his tenure, Henry also assisted with the Student Paper Competition.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Council expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks with a round of applause.

### 5. Resolution of Thanks to the Conference Committee (Eva MacDonald)

Good Morning. It is my pleasure to declare that the 2019 Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference has been a resounding success;

Whereas, Lake George has proven to be a most congenial venue for a conference;

Whereas, we have all enjoyed the informative tours of the Great Warpath and the Heart of the Adirondacks, and the workshop "Fill the Bowl Again," and we look forward to the "Career Pathways" workshop and the behind the scenes tour of the New York State Museum;

Whereas, the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Centre has provided welcoming venues for toasts and talks; and

Whereas, the entire conference has been conducive to the dissemination of knowledge and the stimulating exchange of ideas;

Now, therefore, let it be resolved that the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude for all of the hard work of the conference committee:

Conference Chair, David Starbuck  
Program Chair, Michael Lucas  
Registration Coordinator, Pam Collyer  
Bookroom and Volunteer Coordinator, Marie Ellsworth,  
and Tour Coordinator and Logistics Support, Charles Vandrei

Sponsorship Coordination was provided by Susan Maguire, and David Moyer provided additional Bookroom Coordination.

CNEHA would also like to thank Curator of Bioarchaeology Lisa Anderson and Julie Weatherwax for hosting the Open House event at the Courtland Street Burial Site on Friday morning, and Ed Curtin and Curtin Associates for supporting the Open House.

Special thanks to John Schroeter for all of his volunteer hours supporting the conference, and to all the volunteers and students who have provided invaluable services to ensure the conference ran smoothly.

To all the tour guides: Daniel Cassedy, Robert Frasier, Lyn Hohmann, Andrea Lain, Kristin O'Connell, Gwen Saul, David Staley, Susan Winchell-Sweeney, Open Space Institute, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the Adirondack Ecological Center, and Michael Lucas; and to all the workshop leaders: Wade Catts, Phil Dunning, Craig Lukezic, Laura Masur, and Travis Parno, we say "Thanks!"

Our gratitude extends to the 2019 sponsors for their generous financial support:

Adirondack Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association  
AECOM  
John Liguori Jr., PLLC Attorneys at Law  
Hartgen Archeological Associates Inc.  
Gray and Pape Heritage Management  
Birchwood Archaeological Services  
Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants

To banquet speaker Thomas Crist of Utica College for his thought-provoking presentation on "Skeletal Storytelling from New York to Niagara," and to the staff of the Fort William Henry Hotel for the Friday evening reception at the Carriage House and the delicious Saturday night banquet;

To the session chairs, who have kept or will keep their sessions organized and running on time: David Starbuck, Charles Vandrei, Laura Masur, Michael Lucas, David Staley, Dan Eichinger, Andrea Lain, and Adam Lusier;

To all the contributors to the raffle;

And to the staff of the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Centre for excellent and expeditious service.

Let us give a round of applause for the organizers, students, presenters and supporters of this wonderfully informative and most enjoyable conference.

Motion to close the meeting: Silas Hurry  
2nd: David Landon

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy J. Brighton  
Secretary

### **Annual Student Paper Competition Lake George, New York November 9, 2019**

Five students participated in this year's competition held in Lake George, New York, on November 9, 2019 as part of the annual conference. Entrants were judged on content, presentation and contribution to the field of historical archaeology. This year's panel selected Eileen Bethune for her analysis of the cobblestone street and its associated artifact collection to provide a unique look at Ferryland, Newfoundland. Eileen received a certificate at the Business Meeting on Sunday morning as well as a \$100 prize and membership in CNEHA for 2020. Eileen will also submit her paper for publication in the journal. Everyone is strongly encouraged to submit their papers to the journal for publication.

Thank you to each of the students for participating, giving us all an opportunity to hear about new research.

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

### **Connecticut**

Reported by: Cece Saunders

#### **Skeletal Remains Discovered Beneath Ridgefield Home May Belong To Revolutionary Soldiers**

[Submitted by Nick Bellantoni, *Emeritus* CT State Archaeologist and Scott Brady, President, Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.]

Construction activities working to lower the dirt grade under a house basement dating to 1790 uncovered human skeletal remains in Ridgefield, CT. Local police were contacted and reported the discovery to the Office of the Chief State's Medical Examiner, whose forensic team identified the remains as being historic and not part of a modern criminal investigation. In compliance with state statutes, the state archaeologist was notified to assume the enquiry. In Connecticut, the state archaeologist has statutory responsibility for investigating human remains that are over 50 years and/or part of historic burials.

Subsequent excavations, assisted by members of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA), Archaeological Society of Connecticut (ASC), as well as anthropology graduate students from UConn, have yielded four skeletons of young, robust adult males, three of which were hastily buried together in a common shallow grave where their bodies are commingled with overlapping arms and legs. The bodies were laid supine in a traditional Christian burial east-west orientation with head to the west. However, the mass grave consisting of adult males does not suggest a farming family burying ground.

The discovered burials are located in the area of the Revolutionary War Battle of Ridgefield (April 27, 1777), which followed British General Tryon's raid on Danbury where his troops destroyed a Patriot arsenal and burned a number of houses. As Tryon's 1,900 soldiers were marching back to rendezvous with their ships anchored in Long Island Sound off Westport, they passed through the Town of Ridgefield, where American Generals Benedict Arnold and Gold Silliman erected a barricade at a pinch point along the northern part of Ridgefield village to intercept the British advancement. Meanwhile, American General David Wooster's 200-men regiments were harassing the British rear guard when the general was shot and killed prior to the redcoats' encounter with Arnold and Silliman's 700-men force at the barricade. The Americans were greatly outnumbered.

The British clashed with the Patriots at the barricade, driving the defenders to withdraw and regroup at the Saugatuck



*Two of the three Revolutionary War soldiers buried together in the battlefield, Ridgefield, CT, ca. April 27, 1777. Teagan Smith, Artist.*



Bridge in Westport. They then mounted a new attack. Winning the day, the British encamped overnight in Ridgefield, stripping and burying their dead where they lay on the battlefield. Tryon's report listed 24 British killed and 28 missing. Historians recorded 16 British soldiers and eight Patriots were buried in a small field behind the barricade to the right of the American position on the battlefield, though subsequent research offers varying estimates of the dead.

Our working hypothesis is that the burials found under the basement were victims of this historic Revolutionary War battle. Material culture recovered from two individuals includes 37 brass and two pewter buttons, which are in the process of being cleaned of corrosion by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc., to assist in determining insignias and other patterns of identification. To date, all of the brass buttons appear to be plain and cloth covered. One piece of brass has been identified as a finial, probably used to attach a powder horn to a leather strap. If this is correct, the individual was most likely a Patriot militiaman, or a possible Continental soldier who lacked cartridges. Crown forces would have used pre-rolled, powder and shot-cartridge packing in a cartridge box attached to a leather strap over the shoulder or on a waist belt.

The Office of State Archaeology will be assisted in forensic identifications of the human skeletal remains by in-state universities, including the University of Connecticut, Yale University, Quinnipiac University, as well as other laboratories around the country. Further information will be forthcoming as laboratory analyses continue.

### New York State

Reported by: Michael T. Lucas

#### A Potters Field on Wards Island

[Submitted by Cece Saunders and Sara Mascia, Historical Perspectives, Inc.]

In order to accommodate the New York City's expansion during the early 1800s, the City's Potter's Field was relocated several times. In the 1840s it was the City that used a portion of Randall's Island in the East River for the public burial ground. Just south of Randall's Island, separated by a treacherous, narrow channel known as Little Hell's Gate, was Wards Island, the site of another, less well-known Potter's Field that also opened in the mid-1840s. Both Randall's and Wards Islands housed several state and city public institutions for the indigent, including the Emigrant Refuge and Hospital, the State Inebriate Asylum, the juvenile branch of the Almshouse Department, and the headquarters for the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents. "As one guide to New York and its benevolent institutions observed, 'multitudes of persons went from the dram-shop to the police-station, and from the police courts to the Workhouse from whence, after a short stay, they returned to the dram shop . . . until they at length died on their hands as paupers



Figure 1. Section of 1863 Map of New York and Vicinity by Matthew Dripps, showing the Location of Wards Island.

or criminals and were laid in the Potter's Field.' For most of New York's institutionalized underclass, there was literally a direct path from the door of the asylum or workhouse to the Potter's Field." (T. Bahde, "The Common Dust of Potter's Field: New York City and its Bodies Politic, 1800-1860." *Common-place: The Interactive Journal of Early American Life* 6 (4) July 2006. [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org))

Although never mapped, nor monumented in any way, we know some information about the burial ground through an intrepid New York Times reporter who visited the Wards Island Potter's Field in 1855. For example, at that time the two-acre field was enclosed by a tight board fence, and



the size of an open burial trench was 300 ft x 18 ft x 15 ft deep. Other information relayed was that the daily delivery of approximately 18 coffins was made by boat from docks near Bellevue Hospital, and each filled trench was mounded with four feet of earth in anticipation of the sinking of the soil as the coffins decayed. At the time of the journalist's report, 16,000 people had been buried on the southern shore of Wards Island. ("New-York City, Rambling about Wards Island, A Visit to Potter's Field," *New York Times*, August 21, 1855 (<https://nyti.ms/2TQMLDF>). The City purchased Hart Island in 1868 and soon after began burying the poor and unknown in this 'new' Potters Field.

When Randall's Island and Wards Island were joined by a landfilling project, completed by the early 1960s, Wards Island lost its separate identity. The expansion of sections of the co-joined island shoreline for public parks and the RFK/Triboro Bridge also obliterated many of the 1855 landscape features on Wards Island. Today, city institutions and public venues still occupy various parts of the larger, single island, including the Odyssey House George Rosenfeld Center for Recovery. Recent expansion plans by the Odyssey House for a new adolescent addiction facility required an archaeological pre-construction investigation.

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) is working with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) providing archaeological consultant services for the proposed Odyssey House project. Prior research conducted in 2008 concluded that the proposed construction site had sensitivity

for a mid-19th century Potters Field. Using a combination of mechanical excavation and shovel shaving, the upper fill strata within the site was removed. Shovel shaving was employed in order to determine if any evidence of potential burial shafts or a burial trench could be discerned.

In the northwest corner of the project site, a section of one of the Potter's Field burial trenches was exposed. Three rows containing eighteen columns of stacked burials were identified. A fourth row on the south side of the three rows contained stacked burials perpendicular to the other rows. The exposed section of the angled historic burial trench measured approximately 38 x 17 feet. Each burial stack was comprised of 2-5 adult burials, often with subadult burials in-between the stacks or immediately above or below the stacks. Excavation found that many of the sub adults were also buried in groups, and in some instances were likely placed within the same coffin. In most cases a thin soil layer was found between the stacked burials; however, as a result of compression of the burials over time and the collapse and decay of the coffins, several burials became comingled. Although 228 burials were removed during the data recovery excavation, the laboratory analysis will likely indicate a considerably higher minimum number of individuals (MNI).

The preliminary field examination of the burials indicates that the individuals were of both sexes and ranged from infants to mature adults. A number of the individuals placed in the historic burials trench had been autopsied after death, possibly indicating that they were inmates at one of the many institutions or hospitals on Wards Island. Extremely limited evidence of clothing or personal items was observed during the excavation, mostly comprised of a handful of buttons and religious medals. The assessment of the field and laboratory data is currently being conducted by Historical Perspectives under the direction of Sara Mascia, PhD.

## Pennsylvania

Reported by: Gary Coppock

### Have We Found the Fort at Fort Hunter?

[Submitted by Kim Sebestyen, PHMC]

Another season of excavation at Fort Hunter is finished, but 2019 turned out to be quite an exciting year! Thousands of 18th-century artifacts have been found over the past thirteen years of work at the site; however, few definite 18th-century features have been identified. This season brought evidence of a possible structural feature relating to the fort or even to a period associated with the first European inhabitants of this area.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania has been excavating around the 18th/19th-century mansion house at Fort Hunter (36Da159) for approximately one month every fall since 2006. This site, located in Dauphin County, approximately six miles north of Harrisburg, was first settled in the 1720s



Figure 2. This Maltese Cross was one of the Few Personal Items Recovered During the Excavation of the Potter's Field Burial Trench.

by four Irish brothers by the name of Chambers. Over the last 300 years, this property has served as a homestead, tavern, trading post, community meeting place, French and Indian War fortification, farm, and lastly as a historic site and county park. Archaeological excavations initially focused on the French and Indian War-period at the site, but in the years since we have learned much about the Pre-Contact period, early settlement, and post-war occupations of this site.

Over the past several years, we have been moving our 5-foot by 5-foot excavation units as close to the north end of the mansion foundation as possible based on a slight increase in 18th-century artifacts in this area. The 2019 excavation was a continuation of units opened in 2018. In two of the units we needed to finish excavating the Pre-Contact occupation in the B-horizon. The other four units along the north wall of the house foundation were in varying stages of excavation and needed to be completed. These units were adjacent to the porch at the northwest corner of the mansion and have several modern intrusions including sewer and downspout drainage pipes cutting through them.



Figure 1. Overhead view of excavations near the brick porch at the northwest corner of the mansion house, illustrating the modern sewer pipe intrusions.

The general stratigraphy in this area of the site consists of a dark modern fill that is 1.0- to 1.3-feet thick that contains Pre-Contact through 20th-century artifacts; mainly nails, window glass, coal, debitage, and brick fragments. Under this lies a dark, buried A-horizon that contains the same range of artifacts but with a decrease in 20th-century artifacts and an increase in Pre-Contact artifacts. This is followed by a tan silty sand B-horizon that is 4.0-feet thick, resting on Pleistocene cobbles. It contains Pre-Contact artifacts mainly dating to Late Archaic through Middle Woodland times, although Early Archaic (a Palmer projectile point), Middle Archaic (several bifurcate points) and possible Paleoindian artifacts (a lamace or scraper plane) have been recovered on site but out of context.

Many 18th-century artifacts were recovered from this area last year, noticeably in the buried A-horizon. Just below the buried A-horizon, two of these units (N60 W45 and N60 W50) encountered a thick layer of charcoal designated Feature 172. A second irregularly shaped dark stain, Feature 173, was also found at the bottom of the buried A along the east wall of unit N60 W45. Both of these features produced primarily 18th-century artifacts and were thought to have been completely excavated in 2018.

We began removing the B-horizon in levels; however, it soon



Figure 2. 2019 opening photo, showing the B-horizon (orange-tan), sewer pipe trench, and top of Feature 173 (dark stain to left and right of the exposed sewer pipe).



Figure 3. Top of Feature 173 exposed in N60 W45. Note bone fragments and ceramics.



became obvious that these levels, which should only have produced Pre-Contact Indian artifacts, were instead producing a mixture of prehistoric and historic artifacts. A reassessment of the situation led to the conclusion that this soil had been disturbed, and it was renamed Feature 192. Although it was thought that Feature 173 had been completely excavated last year from along the east wall of N60 W45, removal of the overlying Feature 192 soils revealed that Feature 173 was still visible and even appeared to be growing larger and spreading west along the floor of the unit. Large rocks, bone fragments, small chunks of charcoal, and historic ceramics continued to emerge.

Many interesting historic artifacts were uncovered in Feature 173, including mid-18th-century ceramics, musket balls, cut animal bones, a horseshoe, copper fragments, straight pins, and a clasp knife. Tiny fish bones, flakes of spalled-off ceramic glaze, and a number of white seed beads (of the type that would have been traded with the Indians) were recovered from the feature floor. A total of two dozen beads was eventually recovered from the feature.

In another part of the feature, a swipe of the trowel cut across the top of what at first appeared to be a small mound of pebbles lying in the dirt. Closer inspection revealed that the pebbles were actually a pile of small caliber lead shot. From their position lying in a pile, it is likely they were once enclosed by a leather bag or shot pouch, which would have rotted away and left the lead contents intact.

At this point, the time allotted for our field work was up. However, due to the excitement over our finds we decided

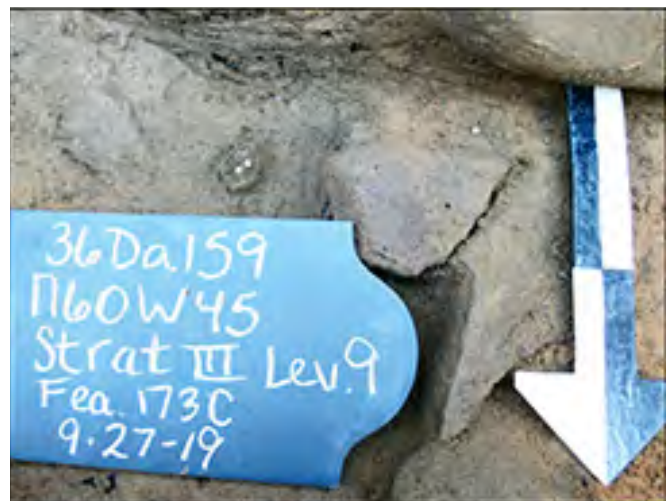


Figure 4. Three white seed beads on the floor of Feature 173.



Figure 5. Pile of lead shot lying in the floor of the feature.

to stick it out another week in an attempt to complete the excavation of Feature 173 in units N60 W45 and N60 W50. Eight, 0.25-foot (3-in) levels of the B-like horizon (Feature 192) had been excavated, producing bone fragments, cobbles, cut rock, charcoal and 18th-century artifacts and exposing Feature 173 across the majority of the floor of N60 W45.

By this time, Feature 173 had resolved itself into a roughly rectangular shape measuring at least nine to ten feet long and four feet wide with a possible large corner post in the north-east corner. The north wall was very straight and perpendicular to the floor. The east wall was more irregular and sloping to the floor.

This feature appeared to represent a midden-like lense within a large hole excavated into the undisturbed B-horizon sometime during the mid-1700s. Very large pieces of charcoal were found throughout Feature 173, along with two large pieces of furnace slag from metalsmithing. Probing indicat-



Figure 6. Unit N60 W45 showing Feature 173, a possible structure corner (darker soil in floor).



Figure 7. Unit N60 W45 facing north illustrating the straight north wall and the possible post hole in the corner. Approximate 1-foot wide intact B-horizon soil along the south wall.

ed that additional disturbed soils extend nearly another foot below Feature 173, indicating the mid-18th-century feature was dug at least 5.0 feet below the ground surface at the time of its excavation.

The most interesting finds of the season were recovered from the top levels of the midden feature during the last week of excavation. A large fragment of a Delft bowl base was recovered from the second level of the feature, as well as a strike-a-lite, a crucible fragment, more trade beads, a thimble with pins, and a beautiful pair of pewter and green glass cuff buttons. Amazingly, they are still connected by a tiny brass loop after 250 years in the ground.

Unfortunately, due to time restraints we had to pack up and leave the site before getting to the bottom of Feature 173/192. It is still unclear exactly what this feature represents since we did not get it completely finished. An early theory was that it may have been part of the defensive ditch that was described as encircling the blockhouse. Another more likely possibility is that it is a cellar of a structure, either related to



Figure 8. Right (top to bottom): Crucible fragment, scratch-blue white salt-glazed stoneware, pewter and green glass cuff buttons, tin-glazed earthenware; left (top to bottom): brass buckle, lead shot, seed beads, honey strike-a-lite.



the fort or to an earlier period, that was filled in by several separate fill events over a short time period.

The presence of furnace slag, metal objects, large amounts of charcoal, crucible fragments, and a whetstone point toward the possibility of a blacksmithing operation somewhere in the area. Research indicates the presence of both a blacksmith and gunsmith on the property in the 18th century, but the location of the operation is not known. The small amount of burnt soil and slag and metal do not seem to indicate this is the primary location of a smithy, but who knows what next year will bring?

It's going to be very difficult to wait until the fall to get back out to the site. Next season we hope to uncover the entirety of Feature 173/192 by opening the adjacent units, including under the brick porch and exposing the top of Feature 173/192 to determine its size and shape. Hopefully even more amazing finds will be made, and we can get an answer to the function and age of this feature. Meanwhile, there is still work to complete in the lab, including having the charcoal samples and slag analyzed and possibly having rusty iron items x-rayed. These may be able to give us more information on the types of wood being burnt and chemical composition of the slag, as well as letting us see the objects beneath the rust.

A more detailed article on these excavations titled "2019 Excavations at the Fort Hunter Site (36Da159): Have We Finally Found the Fort?" will appear in the Spring 2020 edition of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology's journal, *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. As always, the excavation will be open to the public in 2020, so be sure to come out and see if we have found the fort at Fort Hunter.

## Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

### St. Mary's City – Ark and Dove Fellowship

Historic St. Mary's City, in collaboration with the *Society of the Ark and the Dove* announces the **2020 Ark and Dove Scholar in Residence** research fellowship. The award is open to graduate students working on a thesis or dissertation, or post-doctoral scholars working towards publication of research. Research topics are to focus upon early Maryland archaeology, history, or a related subject. Seventeenth-century topics concerning European, American Indian, or African peoples are particularly desired. The selected scholar will receive housing for up to five months, office space in the new archaeological laboratory, parking, access to the extensive museum research files and six million specimen archaeological collections, assistance from the research staff, and a stipend of \$5000.

Historic St. Mary's City has led historical and archaeological research into early Maryland at the site of the first colonial capital for over half a century. Available databases include land records, thousands of transcribed probate inventories from the early colony, biographical files and other datasets created by Dr. Lois Green Carr over her long career at the museum. Collections from dozens of archaeological sites spanning several millennia at St. Mary's City have also been acquired, which include one of the largest seventeenth-century artifact assemblages in North America. In 2016 the museum's Department of Research and Collections occupied a new, custom-designed archaeological laboratory and curation facility, where office space for the Ark and Dove Scholar is provided.



2019 HSMC Field School.

Applications must include 1) a full resume, 2) a short proposal (less than 10 pages) about the anticipated goals and research, and 3) two letters of recommendation. The proposal should include a discussion of the museum resources to be used and a general timeline for anticipated completion of the research. All applicants are encouraged to contact the museum research staff prior to the submission of their applications to discuss their research proposal and to refine their project. At the completion of their research, the Ark and Dove Scholar will provide a copy of the final manuscript to the museum and copies of resulting publications to the museum and Society. A public presentation of the results will be given to a museum audience and to the Society of the Ark and the Dove at one of their bi-annual meetings.

Applications are due **Monday, 13 April 2020** for work beginning in the summer or autumn of 2020. The fellowship will be awarded on 1 May. For more information, contact Dr. Henry Miller, Maryland Heritage Scholar at [henrym@digshistory.org](mailto:henrym@digshistory.org), Dr. Travis Parno, Director of Research and Collections at [travisp@digshistory.org](mailto:travisp@digshistory.org) or Mr. Silas Hurry, Archaeological Laboratory Director at [Silash@digshistory.org](mailto:Silash@digshistory.org). Applications are to be sent in .pdf, .doc, or .docx format to Henry Miller at [henrym@digshistory.org](mailto:henrym@digshistory.org) by 13 April 2020.

### 2020 Field School in Historical Archaeology at Historic St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC), in association with St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), announces its 2020 field school in historical archaeology. The 2020 field season will be focused on sites in the Mill Field. Located northeast of the Town Center at the heart of the colonial capital, the Mill Field takes its name from its proximity to the 17th-century mill that was critical to the town's survival. As St. Mary's City developed in the latter half of the 17th century, the Mill Field became home to a number of the city's residents. The road to the mill was one of the key elements of the city's unique Baroque plan. This portion of the city has only been nominally studied and is sure to yield significant information about the development of St. Mary's City.

HSMC is a state-supported, outdoor museum located at the site of Maryland's first capital (1634–1694). The HSMC field school is the longest-running historical archaeology field school in the United States. Participants engage in an intensive, ten-week program that teaches the foundational principles of historical archaeology through hands-on excavation, laboratory work, and artifact analysis. Students learn artifact identification by working with one of the best archaeological collections of colonial and post-colonial material in the country. Throughout the program, students attend lectures from leading Chesapeake scholars and take field trips to area archaeological sites. Students also receive the rare opportunity to learn about 17th-century sailing firsthand aboard the Maryland Dove, a replica of a square-rigged tobacco ship.



*"Smoker's Companion" from Leonard Calvert site, in situ and x-ray.*



*Faunal remains from excavation in Mill Field.*



The Historical Archaeology Field School is an ideal experience for undergraduate or graduate students concentrating in Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Museum Studies, or American Studies, or for any student with an interest in learning about the past through archaeology.



*Screening for artifacts.*



*Red clay tobacco pipe bowl.*

Program Dates: May 26 – August 1 Credits: 8 credits (Anthropology or History) through SMCM or exchange equivalent, Costs: \$1600 tuition, plus \$75 fee (housing and meal plans available at an additional cost) For more information, including application process, visit our Field School homepage!

### **Henry Miller named 2020 winner of the Harrington Award**

At the annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology this past January, Henry M. Miller was presented with the J.C. Harrington Award. Since its initiation in 1981, only 35 people have received this award. Miller began at St. Mary's City in 1972 and later served as the museum's Archaeology Curator and Director of Research. Beginning in 2015, he became the first Maryland Heritage Scholar.

Much of Miller's career has been devoted to early Maryland and its first capital of St. Mary's City. His efforts have resulted in the discovery that the city was not the scattered gaggle of buildings as was assumed by historians but an elaborately planned urban place, laid out using new and sophisticated ideas of baroque planning. Among his major projects was the excavation of Chapel Field, which led to the finding of Andrew White's 1635 wooden chapel, the impressive 1660s Brick Chapel, and an early rectory.

This work also led to the discovery of three lead coffins buried inside the brick church in 1990. The lead coffins were investigated in 1992 as part of a major scientific project involving 150 scientists, historians, chemists, and other specialists which brought international attention to St. Mary's City and led to the identification of the coffin occupants as members of Maryland's founding family – the Calverts.



*Henry M. Miller, recipient of the 2020 Harrington Award.*

A major part of Miller's working life has been devoted to converting archaeological and historical findings into interpretations for the public. This involves the analysis, design, and reconstruction of 17th-century structures including the 1660s Brick Chapel, Smith's Ordinary, Cordea's Hope, the Print House, the Van Sweringen site, and converting the St. John's archaeological site into a major exhibit building.

Miller has also worked on the creation of numerous exhibits at St. Mary's as well as those at Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, the Maryland Historical Society, and the very successful Written in Bone exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.

## Virginia

Reported by: Laura E. Masur

### Bethel School Site

During October of 2019, two University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill graduate students along with the Fairfield Foundation held two-day dig days for the 6th grade students at Peasley Middle School in Gloucester County, Virginia, at the Bethel School Site. The site is located next door to the present-day middle school, so the 6th graders walked over during their history classes for brief 30-minute excavation experiences. We had over 200 students during the two days. This site is part of Colleen Betti's larger dissertation project comparing Rosenwald and non-Rosenwald black schools in Gloucester. Sierra Roark from UNC Chapel Hill, and Anna Rhodes and Thane Harpole from the Fairfield Foundation helped Betti during the October dig days.

The Bethel School was a four-teacher Rosenwald school-house built in 1924 and stood until 1951. The school was torn down in the mid-1950s. Excavations from earlier in 2019 had located one of the school's front porch foundations



*Bethel School in 1947, excavation location near the back left corner (Courtesy of the National Archives).*

and numerous artifacts relating to the school. However, these units were located under a mid-1950s clothing and shoe dump pile that were deposited soon after the school was torn down, so it was unclear if many of the artifacts were related to the school or dump pile.

During the October excavations, two 5-foot-square units were set up where the industrial room/kitchen was estimated to be. Rosenwald schools were built with the help of grants from the Rosenwald Foundation and came with standardized plans. On the original plans, this room in the back corner was labeled as an "Industrial Room" intended for classes relating to skills training, like cooking, sewing, and carpentry. Two of the Bethel School alumni remember this room being a cafeteria or kitchen in the 1940s. This location was chosen hoping to find less compromised contexts and information about activities that may have been occurring in the industrial room, a key difference between Rosenwald and non-Rosenwald schools.



*Peasley Middle School Students digging at Bethel.*





*Peasley student with the desk leg he found.*



*Melted ink bottle recovered from the Bethel School site with ink still trapped inside.*

Students found a wide variety of artifacts including cast iron desk parts, marbles, pencils, pencil lead, ink bottles, pieces of a leather glove, tin cans, a paste jewel, buttons, many roofing nails and pieces of window glass. A drip line for the school's roof was discovered in one of the units, which helps to confirm the location of the back of the school, despite not finding any foundations. The drip line was filled with numerous milk bottle lids along with pencils, pencil leads, complete tin cans, and two plastic combs.

The artifacts recovered from both units showed evidence of the kinds of supplies being used in the schools, personal adornment of either students or teachers, and about the kinds of foods being prepared in the school's kitchen. The 6th graders had a wonderful time, were very disappointed when they had to return to school, and were equally enthusiastic if they were finding a few pieces of brick or an entire desk leg.

## Ontario

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

### Urban Block in Brantford, Ontario – a Sample of Neighbourhood Archaeology

[Submitted by Scarlett Janusas and Pete Demarte (SJAI)]

Scarlett Janusas Archaeology Inc. conducted a cultural heritage impact assessment and Stage 1-4 archaeological assessment in 2018 for a condominium development project located on a small municipal block in the City of Brantford, Ontario (Figure 1). Only the east side of the block underwent archaeological assessment as the west side was occupied by extant (though abandoned) houses. The site, an urban brown-field, consisted of the backyards of five different houses, and had the potential of uncovering a former small brass foundry, church, three additional houses, and the old Brantford Opera House/Curling Rink.

The early Euro-Canadian site (AgHb-676) was located be-



Figure 1. 1875 Illustrated Historic Atlas Map Showing 1 Wellington Street, City of Brantford (Smith and Page).



Figure 2. Map Showing Stage 2-4 Archaeological Assessment Methodology.

neath the gravel and asphalt parking areas, in the backyards of standing buildings, and beneath garden sheds, walkways, and a concrete pad. The assessment strategies included a test pitting survey, block excavation, and mechanical trenching (Figure 2). In total, 29 cultural features were located, as well as human remains. The study highlighted the challenges, importance and benefits of exploring urban brownfield sites; cast light on the organization and development of a small Ontario city; and, revealed the lifeways of some of Brantford's early Euro-Canadian settlers. This site provided a new look at neighbourhood archaeology, where each lot represents a time capsule for its occupants, and the collective examination of the block allowed for the determination of community socio-economic status.

The spatial division of cities into neighbourhoods is one of the few universals of urban life from the earliest cities to the present. In the past, urban residents typically lived their lives within an area much smaller than the entire city.

Neighbourhoods (small residential zones), have considerable face-to-face interaction and are distinctive on the basis of their physical and/or social characteristics. Neighbourhoods, therefore, are units with social, spatial and temporal significance. Their importance in urban life and organization comes from their social roles and composition. Some of the major social features of neighbourhoods are their status as communities with social ties among members (or "neighbours") and the diverse functional roles they play in a city over time.

Site AgHb-676 is located at 1 Wellington Street (Block 6, Biggar Tract), a block bounded by Wellington, West, Darling and Bridge Streets, in the City of Brantford, and encompasses Municipal Lots 1-17. The study area itself was comprised of the eastern part of the block, and revealed the foundations of two additional houses, the former Brantford Opera House, a small foundry, and several middens and privies, in addition to refuse pits, a cistern, drains, human remains (from two individuals), and a pet burial (Figure 3).

The City of Brantford was once the third largest industrial centre in Canada, and one of the wealthiest in the region. First settled in 1805, the town plot was formally surrendered in 1830. Block 6 of the Biggar Tract was located near the downtown core and houses were being built on the block by the late-1830s/early-1850s. Block 6 consisted of 10 properties over the course of the 19th century. Some structures were demolished during that century, with others rebuilt over their existing footprint, while others remained standing in 2018. They were located near cafes, markets, and industrial complexes, making Block 6 an ideal location to access the busy downtown core of Brantford.

The artifacts suggest that most of the occupants of AgHb-676 lived comfortable, and in some cases, affluent lives. Although many of these households experienced prosperity, they were plagued with common illnesses. The presence of similar materials appearing in all the privies suggests the possible "shared use" of these latrines, at least during the early years of the neighbourhood. Floral analysis indicated large quantities of raspberry and elderberry seeds, while faunal analysis identified fish, fowl, sheep, goat, pig and cattle remains indicating a varied diet of both hunted and barreled meats.

The combined archival research and artifact assemblages suggest that the site witnessed several decades of domestic use, from as early as c.1830s, with a peak occupation between c.1850-1920. The AgHb-676 cultural features were interpreted based on their physical locations in relation to historical property boundaries. However, past mapped boundaries are rarely exact. Features 1-4, for example, sit along municipal lot boundaries, indicating that they could





Figure 3. Map Showing Stage 2-4 Archaeological Assessment Results & Municipal Lot Boundaries.

have been used by the occupants of various households. Decades of use, including demolition, rebuilding, and modern utility line intrusions, required careful consideration of the temporal association of features and artifacts. Although archival data can be helpful, the archaeological excavation of a site provides a more complete picture of the site and lends itself to a broader social and cultural interpretation.

Early neighbourhoods didn't tend to have fences, the way

most properties in today's neighbourhoods do. Backyards were often communal spaces, and it is difficult to showcase what the face-to-face interactions of the neighbourhood inhabitants would have been like in a definitive sense. Regardless of the deficiencies in being able to define social interactions and their loci in a meaningful way, the AgHb-676 site gives us a glimpse into the lives of some of the early Euro-Canadian families who were occupying the small but bustling City of Brantford as it grew and prospered.

## Atlantic Canada

Reported by: Amanda Crompton

### James Alexander Tuck

[Submitted by Barry Gaulton and Steve Mills]

James Alexander Tuck, best known as Jim, was born on June 28, 1940 in the small town of Tonawanda, near Buffalo in upstate New York. As a young boy he developed a keen interest in all things old, which he maintained throughout his life. He also had a deep interest in botany that he studied for his undergraduate degree, graduating in 1962. Jim tried his hand at teaching grade school on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, before going back to Syracuse University to focus on archaeology.

His first connection to Newfoundland and Labrador came in 1967 when, during the construction of a movie theatre in the town of Port aux Choix, several unusual human graves were unearthed. Provincial authorities recognized a need for an archaeologist to investigate these graves, so a call went out to the National Museum in Ottawa. Discussions with Dr.



Figure 1. Jim Tuck looking at Maritime Archaic artifacts from Port aux Choix, circa 1968. Photograph courtesy of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Bill Ritchie, New York State Archaeologist, whom Jim had worked and studied under, resulted in a personal invitation to Jim Tuck by Premier Joey Smallwood to come to Newfoundland, investigate the Port aux Choix discoveries, and start up an archaeology program at Memorial University in St. John's. Jim had just completed his PhD on Onondaga Iroquois cultural development from Syracuse University and was a rising scholar in Iroquoian archaeology in his home state of New York. It was our good fortune that Jim accepted Joey's offer as he quickly moved to St. John's in 1967 with his wife Lynn and their two young sons, Jim and Mike. Within several years, Jim and Lynn had two Newfoundland-born daughters, Robin and Laura. Never being one to waste time, Jim and his crewmembers, including Dr. Ritchie, investigated the cemeteries at Port aux Choix where Jim proved that the people interred there were part of the Archaic First Nation's tradition that ranged from New England to northern Labrador. Further investigations in southern Labrador, with his Memorial University colleague Dr. Robert McGhee and later in Saglek Bay helped Jim piece together the early human history of Newfoundland and Labrador, resulting in the 1976 landmark publication *Newfoundland and Labrador Prehistory*. Previous to this Jim published three books on some of the region's earliest peoples: *The Archaeology of Saglek Bay, Labrador: Archaic and Palaeo-Eskimo Occupations* (1975); *An Archaic Sequence from the Strait of Belle Isle, Labrador* (1975, with Robert McGhee); and *Ancient People of Port au Choix* (1976).

Jim's early career saw him make many defining contributions to the Indigenous history in the province, dating back at least 8,000 years or more. In addition to his work at Port aux Choix, Jim and Bob McGhee and some of his MUN graduate students, including Pricilla Renouf and Marcie Madden, uncovered the world's oldest known burial mound at L'Anse Amour in southern Labrador. Also in southern Labrador, Jim and Bob revisited previously discovered sites and made new discoveries that indicated the Strait of Belle Isle featured some of the earliest evidence of humans in eastern Canada. In the late 1970s, Jim began to explore the historical period of the province's history when he surveyed sixteenth-century Basque whaling sites in Red Bay, Labrador. Red Bay turned out to be of tremendous international importance for, as Jim called it, Red Bay was where the Industrial Revolution began in the New World. Evidence of Basque whalers turning whale blubber into incredibly valuable oil was present on Saddle Island and elsewhere in the harbour and neighbouring coves and bays. At Red Bay Jim and his crews also uncovered evidence of a rich human history from circa 9,000 years ago to modern times. The Saddle Island West site is the only known sixteenth-century "contact" site in Labrador where Indigenous groups, likely Beothuk, actually visited European sites.



As the Red Bay investigations were winding down, Jim delved deeply into the early colonial and industrial history at Ferryland. Two field schools in the mid-1980s began the search for remnants of the 1621 English colony of Avalon, the results of which formed the impetus for larger scale investigations beginning in 1992. Taking lessons from his experiences working with archaeology students and local residents in Red Bay, Jim recognized the value of collaborative, community-based archaeology, and of the potential benefits that it may bring to rural areas of the province. Ferryland residents were therefore employed in all aspects of the project starting with field and laboratory positions, and later – as the site and its importance gained momentum – expanding into further opportunities as managers, tour guides, heritage interpreters and retail staff. Jim was among the first academics in Canada to genuinely understand that archaeology is as much about the people and communities we work in as it is about the past. Now in its 28th consecutive field season, the Ferryland archaeology project is but one of Jim's many enduring legacies.

Jim's technical expertise was a source of amazement for those he worked with, frequently manifesting itself when dealing with the unique challenges associated with the excavation and interpretation of waterlogged archaeological sites. From the artefact-rich small ponds in Red Bay to the foreshore of Ferryland, Jim was able to plan and then assemble an impressive array of useful tools and instruments from suction dredges and sediment separators to flotation tanks. His recognition of the need for collaboration with experts in other fields was another of Jim's strengths, regularly working with historians, folklorists, parasitologists, entomologists and numismatists. Furthermore, Jim was the first archaeologist in Canada to bring archaeological conservators into the field. This action proved essential for the care of organic artifacts such as the clothing of Basque whalers at Red Bay and the remarkably intact oak barrels forming the early waterfront at Ferryland.

Jim's contributions to archaeology went well beyond the shores of his newly adopted province. He conducted surveys



Figure 2. Jim Tuck at Ferryland, 2009. Photograph courtesy of Barry Gaulton.

on Anticosti Island, Quebec, in 1971 with famed American archaeologist Alfred Kidder II and investigated the sixteenth-century exploits by Sir Martin Frobisher on Kodlunarn Island in the Canadian Arctic with Robert McGhee and Luke Pilon in the early 1990s. Jim frequently gave lectures on his Newfoundland and Labrador work throughout Canada, the United States, Mexico, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Egypt.

Jim's remarkable work ethic is one of the things that stands out the most when we think of Jim Tuck and his archaeological legacy in Newfoundland and Labrador. Jim was an exceptionally hard worker who loved what he did. No job was too big or small for Jim to take on, and he would always lead by example. From building wharfs and repairing sewer lines in Red Bay, to meticulously constructing scale models of tryworks and staved beer steins or creating reproduction 17th-century furniture, Jim used his talents to benefit us all. Jim was a modest man and was quick to share the stage with his colleagues and students by co-authoring numerous publications and conference presentations. His books, manuscript reports and articles were always well written and easy to comprehend; a skill that is still unfortunately lost on many scholars of Jim's stature. Jim Tuck's lasting legacy lives on through his family and the many students who have gone on to research and teach archaeology throughout Canada, the United States and around the world.

### **Archaeology at Ferryland 2019**

[Submitted by Barry Gaulton and Eileen Bethune]

The 2019 field season was overshadowed by the loss of a dear friend and mentor, Dr. James A. Tuck. Jim first became interested in Ferryland's past in the late 1960s following conversations with local resident Arch Williams. Arch was convinced that the remains of Lord Baltimore's 1621 colony was buried underneath the gardens and houses lining Ferryland's sheltered inner harbour or Pool. His assertion proved correct. In the mid-1980s, Jim and a small crew of MUN undergraduate students conducted limited excavations around the Pool as part of the Archaeology Unit's Field School (1984, 1986). The discovery of substantial 17th-century stone features and associated artifact-rich deposits was beyond anything that Jim anticipated; he reluctantly backfilled the site until a time when funding became available to conduct a more thorough, multi-year excavation (Tuck 1985, 1989, 1993). Six years later, in 1992, archaeology began anew thanks to a federal-provincial funding agreement. Jim directed these excavations, serving in this capacity up to and beyond his retirement from Memorial University in 2005. Throughout 28 years of ongoing excavations at Ferryland, Jim's passion for and commitment to this archaeological site – and to the people of Ferryland – never diminished. His legacy and

influence will be felt for decades to come.

With a sombre start to the 2019 season, the field and laboratory crews at Ferryland continued our investigation of a 1620s-era masonry structure (Feature 217, Area D) located outside the original parameters of the 4-acre fortified settlement, a previously-unknown structure for which Jim and I had been in continued email contact over the last few years. The ideas and theories presented below are therefore as much Jim's as mine. In conjunction with these excavations, we also excavated a 1x3 metre unit (in Area B) inside the settlement to expose an additional segment of the 1620s cobblestone street (Feature 56). This operation coincided with field and laboratory research conducted by MA student Eileen Bethune during summer 2019, and whose preliminary fieldwork is outlined in this report.

Upon completion of what is now our third season of excavation on Feature 217 in Area D, we can state with confidence that the clay-bonded stone structure was built sometime in the early 1620s, occupied into the 1630s and whose principal/initial purpose involved one or more industrial activities. This industrial theory is based on several key observations. First, the building is positioned 30 meters outside the original fortified village, whereas all other known structures from the 1620s, both domestic and work-related, are located inside the fortifications. Such a placement seems illogical from a defensive standpoint considering that there was ample space inside the 4 acre settlement; however, given the presence of several interior hearth/furnace features, this structure may have been purposefully isolated from the rest of the colony in case of accidental fire.

Second, the architectural features of this building are anomalous by comparison with the domestic structures we've found at Ferryland, suggesting a non-domestic function. For example, of the six or more dwellings we've uncovered (inside the village) over the last 28 field seasons, all are rectangular in plan, floored in wood and contain a single hearth for heating and cooking. By comparison, Feature 217 is a perfect square (Figure 1), measuring 6.4m (21ft) on a side (exterior dimensions) with a simple dirt floor, a disproportionately large 1.21m (4ft) wide doorway, and three hearth or furnace features, all of which are set into the west wall of the building. In the center of the west wall is a .91m by 1.52m (3ft by 5ft) cobblestoned hearth likely used as the primary heat source, and immediately north is the base of a roughly circular furnace 1.06m (3½ft) in diameter. At the southwest end of the building is an oddly-shaped alcove-like feature .91m wide by .76m deep (3ft by 2½ft) in which fires were also set, as evidenced by a thick lens of fire-reddened clay and sand, as well as charred rock, coal and brick fragments (Figure 2). Within such a small 4.87m by 4.87m (16ft by 16ft) interior space,





Figure 1 (Left). Aerial photograph of Feature 217. Note the three hearth/furnace features along the west side of the building (Photograph courtesy of James Williamson).

Figure 2 (Below). Feature 217d: alcove in the southwest corner of the building.





three activities requiring fire is curious indeed. Furthermore, the incorporation of these features as part of the original construction demonstrates that this was a purpose-built structure rather than a domestic building whose use was later modified due to changing circumstances.

Finally, the associated by-products recovered from inside and outside this building point to one or more proto-industrial activities — or in the very least, attempts or ‘trials’ to assess their viability. These by-products include many hundreds of pieces of partially-melted, sandy, greenish, glassy material; as well as waste products resembling clinker, often associated with the burning of coal as a fuel. Bearing in mind that this building’s associated midden deposits, particularly along its eastern side, have not been fully excavated, several possibilities present themselves, two of which I will briefly discuss.

One involves attempts at making glass. Historical records state that glassmaking was among the industries to be attempted at Newfoundland’s first English colony in Cupids in 1610, and that English colonists at Jamestown in Virginia had earlier experimented with a ‘trial of glass’ in 1608 and again in 1620. Interestingly, George Calvert was an investor in the Virginia Company and was no doubt aware of these early attempts at glassmaking. The discovery of small drips

(or trails) of glass inside this building at Ferryland, as well as patches of fine golden sand and several crucible fragments, lend support to this idea.

These same crucible fragments, combined with the presence of ceramic bottles, several pewter-topped case bottles and caps, clear and green glass phials, as well as fragments of other specialized glassware, give rise to another possibility: that this structure may have served as an alchemists’ laboratory (Figure 3). The multiple hearth features, various waste products, and the range of (potential) chemical equipment may suggest that this was once the laboratory of an alchemist. Admittedly, this interpretation may change or be strengthened following the 2020 field season.

Regardless of the building’s original function(s), the duration of occupation was certainly short lived, as evidenced by a small but tightly-datable collection of clay tobacco pipes manufactured in London, Bristol and Devon (Figure 4). Other datable objects include a Charles I bale seal fragment (Figure 5). Built sometime in the 1620s and occupied into the 1630s, it is possible that this structure’s demise was ultimately associated with the end products (or lack thereof) produced within; and/or that its demolition was the result of the extensive re-organization and re-fortification of Ferryland by Sir David Kirke starting in 1638.

Figure 3. *Artifact collage showing pewter tops from case bottles (top left), ceramic bottle (top right), base of clear glass phial (bottom left) and glassware rim or base (bottom right) associated with the occupation of Feature 217.*







Figure 4. Assortment of clay pipe bowls and makers' marks from Feature 217.

It was the Kirke family, including Lady Sara and her sons George, David (II), Phillip and Jarvis, who found ways to make the Ferryland colony profitable, in part thanks to the existing infrastructure built and paid for by Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore. Evidence for this prosperity has been amply demonstrated in the archaeological record. The 2019 excavations in Area B provide further confirmation in the form of a domestic midden believed to be associated with members of the Kirke family (Gaulton and Hawkins 2013, 2014; Gaulton and Casimiro 2015). Prodigious amounts of decorated tin-glazed earthenware, sgraffito-decorated slipware, relief-moulded clay tobacco pipes, brass upholstery tacks, and items of personal adornment are among the notable finds from 2019. Below this midden are the remains of Ferryland's early cobblestone street, first envisioned by Governor Wynne in 1622 "that the whole may be made a prettie streete" and believed to have been completed before George Calvert's visit in 1627 (Wynne 1622, in Whitbourne 1623).

Ferryland's main street stands out in comparison to other contemporaneous examples in the New World, as it is among the earliest evidence for a paved road in colonial North America. Archaeology demonstrates that Ferryland's cobblestone street runs the entire length of the original fortified settlement, some 121m (400ft) long by 4m (13ft) wide (Miller 2013; Gaulton 2006:33; Gaulton and Tuck 2003:190). It contains an estimated 75,000 stones (Gaulton 2006:51).



Figure 5. Charles I lead bale seal fragment.

Following the completion of the laboratory component of my MA research, I conducted a reconnaissance survey of the shorelines and beaches within proximity of the Pool searching for suitable raw material sources (sand and cobblestones) used in the construction of Ferryland's paved street. In conjunction with the survey I excavated a single 50cm by 50cm test pit at each end (east and west; Area F and B respectively) of Ferryland's cobblestone street. The purpose of these test pits was to determine: 1) how the street was constructed, including the thickness and grain size of the underlying sand bedding and how the cobblestones were set into this bedding;

2) if there are any differences between the construction methods and materials used on either side of this 121-metre-long paved feature (Figure 6).

The results demonstrate that the stones used on the east end of the settlement are different than the stones used on the west end and come from different beaches. The former was constructed with stones from the eastern shoreline nearest to that end of the settlement. These stones were tightly packed, with the majority of each stone embedded in the sand and placed so that there was a flat surface to walk upon. By comparison, the stones from the west end were less tightly packed and less of each stone was set into the sand bedding. Additionally, the stones on this end of the street were rounder and harder to walk on, originating from a different but nearby beach to the west. Based on the sand samples I collected, this western beach alone supplied the sand bedding for the entire street. Differences in the construction on either end of the street, combined with the artifact analysis, led to an initial theory that the eastern end of the street was paved

first as it was the centre of domestic activity, while sometime later paving continued westward towards the other end of the settlement where the forge (and possibly other structures) were located.

The theory was further tested by excavating below the sand bedding under the street in an effort to find evidence of earlier cultural deposits. However, the test pits on the east and west ends of the street failed to reveal earlier 17th-century deposits. The absence of slag from the nearby forge in the western test pit is also significant as the forge was one of the earliest Calvert-era buildings constructed at Ferryland, completed in early summer of 1622 (Wynne 1622, in Whitbourne 1623). Thus, it appears that there was no appreciable length of time between the construction and operation of the forge and the laying of the cobblestone street. The lack of artifacts under the cobblestones at the western end of the street therefore supports an alternative theory: that the paved street was an early construction completed in its entirety within a relatively short time period.



Figure 6. Test pit below Feature 56 (cobblestone street), Area F, showing sand bedding.

In addition to my independent fieldwork, excavations of the overlying 17th-century midden in Area B exposed an additional 3 metres of the southern edge of the street towards the western end of the colony (Figure 7). The southern edge of the pavement clearly shows evidence of a continuous wooden curb set so as to encase and contain the sand bedding (and subsequent cobblestones). The curb itself was supported by a series of posts, 8cm in diameter, set 1.21m (4ft) apart, as revealed by several preserved post molds.

Based on the above evidence and the previous excavation of the cobblestone street in the 1990s, a sequence of construction for the street can be suggested. Starting with the placement of a wooden curb, set 4m (13ft) apart, the addition of 17.8cm (7in) of sand bedding was added between the curbs along the entire length of the street. From there, a possible two or more stone layers — a profession involving the laying of stones for a building or any form of paving — worked to pave the street using stones acquired on both shorelines in proximity to each end of the street, thus explaining the difference in construction style and raw material identified at the eastern and western portions of the street.

#### **Acknowledgments**

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Figure 7. Area B excavation showing newly-exposed section of Feature 56 (foreground) and previously-excavated segments of the same (background).

Bethune's MA research. James Williamson (PhD Candidate, MUN) and Peter Whitridge (Professor and Head, Department of Archaeology, MUN) also deserve thanks for photographing Feature 217 using a drone, as seen in Figure 1. Williamson later produced a detailed map using the same imagery. Finally, a big thanks to volunteer crew member Melissa McDonald who spent several weeks assisting in the field and laboratory.

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The last printed edition of the Newsletter was October 2015 Newsletter (No. 92). In an effort to maintain current membership rates, the Board has voted to transition all subsequent newsletters to an electronic format that will be sent to all members via email.

Le bulletin (no. 92), celui du mois d'octobre dernier, aura été le dernier numéro imprimé. Afin de maintenir les taux d'abonnements actuels, l'exécutif a voté en faveur d'un format électronique pour les bulletins. Tous les bulletins seront donc envoyés aux membres par courriel à l'avenir.

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