



Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2004

NUMBER 58

CNEHA on the WEB: What Now?

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

COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Chairman: Lu Ann De Cunzo
Newsletter Editor: David Starbuck
P.O. Box 492
Chestertown, New York 12817-0492
Tel. & Fax: (518) 494-5583
Email: Starbuck@NetHeaven.com

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, palyology, faunal analysis, etc.). We also welcome commentary and opinion pieces. To submit a manuscript or request preparation of manuscript guidelines, write to David B. Landon, Anthropology Department, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125. david.landon@umb.edu

It has been seven years since the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) first established a web presence. During that time, the design, organization, and types of content have remained static, albeit continually updated to reflect changing officers, meeting plans, and additional journal and monograph offerings. While the purposes originally planned for the CNEHA web page continue to be met by the current posting, we are asking the membership what could be done better and what could be added so the web page better serves the Council.

We are setting up a Comment feedback button on the web page. Please visit the site and let us know what you think can be expanded, augmented, or improved. (<http://www.smcm.edu/academics/soan/cneha>) The feedback button should be in place by June 15th, 2004 and we'd like to receive your review and comments by August 15th, 2004.

Thank you all for your assistance in this process. Feel free to contact us at:

sdhurry@smcm.edu (Silas Hurry)
dinnel@dhcd.state.md (Kate Dinnel)

NEW CNEHA BIBLIOGRAPHY

A few years ago, the Board of CNEHA decided it was time to start preparing a comprehensive bibliography of publications pertaining to Northeast Historical Archaeology, and we're ready to start pursuing this more aggressively. The new bibliography will appear in 2006, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the founding of CNEHA. It will

include all publications since 1986, the year of our last comprehensive bibliography (covering all years up to that date). For further information, contact David Starbuck at starbuck@NetHeaven.com. (Additional reminders will appear in future issues of the CNEHA Newsletter.)

OFFICERS OF CNEHA

Chair: Lu Ann De Cunzo
Department of Anthropology
University of Delaware
Newark, DEL 19716
decunzo@udel.edu

Executive Vice-Chair: Edward M. Morin
Program Manager/Senior
Archaeologist
URS Corporation
561 Cedar Lane
Florence, NJ 08518-2511
Ed_Morin@URSCorp.com

Vice-Chair: Rebecca Yamin
John Milner Associates
1216 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
ryamin@johnmilnerassociates.com

Secretary: Dena Doroszenko
5 Watford Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6C 1G4
Dena.Doroszenko@heritagedn.on.ca

Treasurer: Sara Mascia
16 Colby Lane
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-1749
saramascia@aol.com

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND: A CORRECTION by Nancy J. Brighton

On page 7 of the March 2004 CNEHA Newsletter, the article by JoAnne Castagna and Lattissua Tyler ("St Louis and New York U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts Partner on One of the Greatest Archaeological Discoveries of Our Time") and the New York City summary (page 22) both reported that the African Burial Ground was identified by construction workers after the excavation of the federal office building

had begun. This is incorrect. The site had been identified as the location of the burial ground by documentary research conducted by Historic Conservation and Interpretation, Inc. (HCI), under the direction of Edward S. Rutsch. Based on this research, field plans were developed and implemented to excavate test trenches at the site.

It was during these excavations that the human remains were uncovered. The excavation of a portion of the burial ground was initiated by HCI and completed by John Milner and Associates (JMA). Howard University is writing the historical, archaeological and skeletal biological studies for the burial ground component of the site. JMA is completing the archaeological report for the non-burial ground (18th century potteries) portion of the site.

UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology* Reported by: David B. Landon

By now you have all had a chance to look over Volume 32, and I hope you've enjoyed reading it. Unfortunately an error in the editorial office left off the co-editor of the volume, Patrick Heaton. In order to correct this oversight, and give credit where it is due, we have enclosed a label to paste into the frontispiece of the journal. So, everyone please take a moment to find the label we included in this mailing and place it properly in the journal to reflect the two co-editors. I am certain it is not the first mistake we have made with the journal, but it is certainly the worst so far, so apologies to Patrick Heaton!

Volume 33 is underway, and promises to be an interesting and eclectic collection of papers, reflecting the current research diversity in historical archaeology. I am especially pleased that it will contain several papers from CNEHA's annual student paper competition. As you recall, we have a paper competition each year at our conference and the winning paper gets published in the journal. Depending on how the review and revision process takes place we might have as many as five student paper competition winners published in Volume 33. These papers are a testimony to the outstanding historical archaeology scholarship in the Northeast. More details about the contents of the journal will be presented later when the journal production is further along.

Finally, we have been selling lots of copies of the artifact poster. If you have not yet seen the poster it is a full-color 11 x 17 with dates and illustrations of 20th-century artifacts drawn from Miller et al.'s article "Telling Time for Archaeologists" in Volume 29 of the journal. A sample of part of the poster can be viewed on the CNEHA website. If you would like to order a copy of the poster, send \$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling, in a check payable to UMass Boston/CNEHA to: David Landon, CNEHA, Anthropology Dept., UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

Please send news for the next issue of the CNEHA Newsletter by September 15 to the appropriate provincial or state editor. If you would like to submit an article dealing with archaeological collections management or curation, please send it to Beth Acuff, Dept. of Historical Resources, 2801 Kensington Ave., Richmond, VA 23221.

Provincial Editors:

ATLANTIC CANADA: Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada, Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1S9. rob.ferguson@pc.gc.ca

ONTARIO: Suzanne Plousos, Parks Canada, 111 Water St. E, Cornwall, ON K6H 6S3. suzanne.plousos@pc.gc.ca

QUEBEC: Monique Elie, 840 Sir Adolphe Routhier, Quebec, Quebec G1S 3P3. monique.elie@pc.gc.ca

State Editors:

CONNECTICUT: Cece Saunders, Historical Perspectives, P.O. Box 3037, Westport, CT 06880-9998. HPIX2@aol.com

DELAWARE: Lu Ann De Cunzo, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Delaware, Newark, DEL 19716. decunzo@udel.edu

MAINE: Leon Cranmer, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, State House Station 65, Augusta, ME 04333. leon.cranmer@state.me.us

MARYLAND: Silas Hurry, Box 39, St. Mary's City, MD 20686. sdhurry@osprey.smcm.edu

MASSACHUSETTS: Karen Metheny, 367 Burroughs Rd., Boxborough, MA 01719. kbmetheny@aol.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Dennis E. Howe, 22 Union St., Concord, NH 03301. earlyhow@verizon.net

NEW JERSEY: Lynn Rakos, US Army Corps of Engineers, CENAN-PL-EA, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278. rakos@nan02.usace.army.mil

NEW YORK CITY: Nancy J. Brighton, US Army Corps of Engineers, CENAN-PL-EA, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278. nancy.j.brighton@nan02.usace.army.mil

NEW YORK STATE: Lois Feister, New York State Bureau

of Historic Sites, Peebles Island, Waterford, NY 12188. lmfh@aol.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Rebecca Yamin, John Milner Associates, 1216 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. ryamin@johnmilnerassociates.com

RHODE ISLAND: Kristen Heitert and Ray Pasquariello, The Public Archaeology Laboratory Inc., 210 Lonsdale Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860. Kheitert@palinc.com

VERMONT: Elise Manning-Sterling, 102 River Rd., Putney, VT 05346. elise@hartgen.com

VIRGINIA: Barbara Heath, The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, P.O. Box 419, Forest, VA 24551. barbara@poplarforest.org

WEST VIRGINIA: William D. Updike, Staff Archaeologist, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., 3556 Teays Valley Rd., Suite #3, Hurricane, WVA 25526. wupdike@crai-ky.com

CNEHA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING October 26, 2003 Doubletree Riverfront Hotel Junior Ballroom Lowell, Massachusetts

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by

1. Approval of Minutes of October 2002 ABM as published in the Newsletter

Moved by: Sherene Baugher
2nd: Karen Metheny
Carried

OLD BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's report: Sara Mascia & Joe Last
Income for 2003 is \$12,439.60. Expenditures total \$7,486.26. The current balance in the US business checking account is \$14,047.65. The business CD account is \$5,138.37. Canadian account status is a balance of \$5,086.55. The Board has approved a balanced budget for 2004. Canadian account – the double farmstead issue was the largest expense in 2002-3.

Motion to approve report: Silas Hurry
2nd: Richard Veit

Carried

2. Membership reports

a) Individual US: Ed Morin - Doing very well, 324 members.

Moved: Karen

John Martin 2nd

Carried

b) Other members through the newsletter to assist in locating them.

c) Individual – Canadian: Joe Last.

Have 58 total. Down about 4 from last year.

Motion to approve: Ed Morin

2nd: John Martin

Carried

d) Institutional: Presented by Sara Mascia

There are 33 Institutional and 8 Business category memberships

Motion to accept report: Ed Weiser

2nd: Mary Beaudry

Carried

3. Newsletter report: LuAnn De Cunzo for David Starbuck No. 56 should be mailed out very soon. Have a full complement of editors. Noted that flyers for field schools will be accepted, send to office no later than March 1 and send 500.

4. Journal: David Landon

In middle of production for general paper issue, in production for GIS volume, which is the next volume. GIS volume should be mailed early in 2004.

5. a) 2003 Lowell section : Karen Metheny

Pre-registration of 123 by October 23rd. There should be approximately 150 attendees total.

b) 2004- Kingston, ON – The Limestone City by Joe Last

On the waterfront, French occupation mid 17th century, then a British stronghold, War of 1812. Military tour, Fort Henry, tour of historic domestic houses in Kingston and Brockville. Dates of conference October 22- 25, 2004. \$120.00 CAD room rate.

c) 2005 – Trenton, New Jersey -- Richard Veit and Richard Hunter

Trenton established in the 17th century, fabulous history right up into the 20th century with the potteries. Formal tours of military sites, treasures of the Delaware valley, Buried in New Jersey (grave site tour). What Trenton makes, the world takes!

d) 2006 – Hudson Valley (40th Anniversary) –Sara Mascia and Nancy Brighton

We are planning a retrospective on the organization and therefore looking for memories, photographs, etc. to share with the members at this venue.

e) 2007 – Lu Ann announced the Board has been approached for St. John's, Nfld. The Board will consider this request at the spring Board meeting.

Sherene Baugher has been appointed to head a special conference committee to ensure that the conference venues continue well in advance. Sara Mascia will be updating the conference manual.

6. Elections report: Richard Veit

8 nominees, five elected: Joan Gesimar, Joe Last, Karen Metheny, Sara Mascia, Kate Dinnel.

Motion to accept report: Mary Beaudry

2nd: John Martin

Carried

Thursday's Board elections included: Chair: Lu Ann De Cunzo as Chair (1 year term); Sara Mascia, Treasurer (3 year term); Joe Last (Canadian membership 3 year term). Meta Janowitz was appointed as Nominations and Elections Committee.

7. Poster: Ed Morin

First poster is out on Telling Time in the 20th Century. Second one is being developed. URS has gratefully partnered with CNEHA. The proceeds go to the publications program of CNEHA. Lu Ann thanks URS for their contribution to CNEHA.

8. Awards of Service: Sara Mascia

Past awards have been awarded to Paul Huey and Lois Feister and this year, Silas Hurry. In 2004, the award will go to Pierre Beaudet. Will be accepting nominations for 2005 in this next year.

9. Student competition: Nancy Brighton

The Chair thanked Karen Metheny for her organization of this competition. Three students competed this year. Panelists: Steve Mills, Tad Baker, Martha Pinello. Winner receives a 1 year membership. The 2003 first place went to Christine Hodge.

10. Resolution of Thanks to outgoing board members: Paul Huey

This morning there are two people who deserve special recognition. Suzanne Plousos is leaving the Executive Board and Sherene Baugher is stepping down as the Board Chair.

Sherene has done a truly outstanding job as Chair for the past 5 years. With Sherene in charge, we have had some wonderful conferences and we have also had excellent long-term advance planning for conferences. She was also a Board member from 1980 to 1986. She was Treasurer from 1981 to 1983 and she was Chair from 1983 to 1985. During that time she was also Program Chair for the 1984 Conference in Connecticut. Under her leadership we obtained non-profit status under our New York State charter, we increased our Canadian membership and in 1985 we had our first Canadian conference, at Ottawa. We will also miss Suzanne, and we hope she will serve again. Meanwhile, she will be busy co-chairing with Joe Last, the Kingston conference in 2004. We are also grateful to her for her assistance in maintaining our Canadian membership.

Motion:

Whereas, the terms of office of an Executive Board member and the Board Chair of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology are both expiring, the Council acknowledges their contributions to the organization and expresses its heartfelt thanks to Suzanne Plousos who has served as Board member for 2 years and Sherene Baugher who has served as Chair for 5 years.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Council hereby expresses its unreserved appreciation for the service, leadership, and efforts of these officers.

Moved by Paul Huey

2nd: Sara Mascia

Lu Ann presented a gift from CNEHA with appreciation for her years of service.

11. Resolution of Thanks to conference organizers: Kate Dinnel

Motion:

Whereas, the 2003 CNEHA conference has been an outstanding success,

Whereas, the City of Lowell has proven to be an excellent venue for a conference,

Whereas, we have all enjoyed learning about the history, architecture and archaeology of Lowell, Massachusetts, and the surrounding Northeast,

Whereas, the tours, workshops, reception and banquet were thoroughly enjoyed,

Whereas the entire conference has been conducive to the dissemination of knowledge, the exchange of ideas and collegial fellowship.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Council for Northeast

Historical Archaeology wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work, long hours and tremendous efforts of the conference organizers and sponsoring organizations:

The National Park Service, in particular, NPS Lowell National Historical Park, Boott Cotton Mills Museum and NPS Northeast Region Archaeology Program, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Lowell Historic Board, the American Textile History Museum, the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research UMASS – Boston, TRC, the Public Archaeology Laboratory, URS, John Milner & Associates, Independent Archaeological Consulting, Louis Berger, UMASS Amherst Archaeological Services, the Conference Committee members: Elizabeth Kiniry, Christa Beranek and David Landon. The student volunteers from Cornell University: Daniel Costura, Maureen McIlhaney and Joshua Rosenthal; from UMASS-Boston: Carolyn Carlson and Theresa Dujnic; from CUNY: Olivia Given and Maureen Kick and from the University of Leicester: Anne Garber.

Finally and most importantly, a round of applause please for the co-organizers of this informative, enjoyable and excellently organized conference, Karen Metheny and Ann-Eliza Lewis.

Moved by: Kate Dinnel

2nd: Nancy Brighton

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

1. Raffle took place, Liz Kiniry thanked the donors.

2. Website update: Silas Hurry

Would like to revitalize the website and asked the membership for comments and suggestions. Please contact him with your comments.

3. Meta Janowitz suggested a life membership to CNEHA as a great gift!

Motion to adjourn:

Moved by: Sara Mascia

2nd: John Martin

9:08 a.m. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Dena Doroszenko

Secretary

CURRENT RESEARCH

Massachusetts

Reported by: Karen Metheny

UMass Amherst Archaeological Field School, June 29-
July 31, 2004

The 2004 field school will be located in the Pocumtuck Indian homeland, in the middle Connecticut River Valley, in the present-day town of Deerfield, Massachusetts. Despite the long time-depth of Native American Indian habitation in the region (at least 11,000 years), and the relatively short time span of Euro-American settlement (less than 400 years), the histories of Native and European relations in Deerfield have often focused on the attack of 1704.

During the international conflict known as "Queen Anne's War," on the night of February 29, 1704, the relatively new English settlement at Deerfield was attacked. The combined force included 48 French soldiers, and more than 250 Native warriors, including Wôbanakiak (Abenaki, Pennacook, Pocumtuck, Sokoki, etc.), Kanienkehaka (Canadian Mohawk), and Wendat (Huron). The war party included former Connecticut River Valley Indians who had been forced out by English settlement. Forty-one Deerfield residents were killed, and 112 were taken captive and marched north to Native and Canadian villages. Some of the captives eventually returned to Deerfield, but others remained with French or Native communities.

Historians and archaeologists have yet to fully come to terms with the complex social and political interactions of this event, the larger context of Native-European interactions of the Contact period, or the degree to which this event has clouded our perceptions of Native history and contemporary Native issues. There has also been little consideration of the multi-cultural nature of "English settlements" in the Connecticut River valley, which often included African slaves, Irish emigrants, French fur traders, and Native peoples.

The UMass Archaeological Field School will focus on at least one archaeological site in the Deerfield area, in order to learn more about pre- and post-Contact Native American lifeways and history. The five-week field school will include intensive training in New England Native history, archaeological survey techniques, excavation, laboratory methods, artifact analysis, and archaeological interpretation. Students also will learn about the geology of the region, which plays an integral part in archaeological interpretations of the past. The opportunity to participate in our public education program in Deerfield will be a critical component of this field school. Our lab will be located in the Moors House at Historic Deerfield, Inc., and will be open to the public Thursday-Saturday in the month of July.

For more information go to <http://www.umass.edu/anthro/> (and follow the field school link).

New York

Reported by: Lois Feister

Elmira Firehouse Excavations

The basement of the historic 1897 firehouse was excavated by Elmira College students and volunteers in February. Renovation of the building can begin once debris is removed from the basement. Eventually, the firehouse will become a living history museum and fire-safety education center. The archaeologists were led by Heidi Dierckx, assistant professor of classical studies at Elmira College. The workers found a pick-ax, metal barrel hoops, a watering can, marked glass bottles, a hubcap, and chicken bones. Locations of each were mapped. An upcoming archaeology class will label, clean, and sort the material. The presence of the layer of ash found to be 4-feet deep in places is unexplained.

Changes at the New York State Museum

Collections at the New York State Museum traditionally focused on prehistoric archaeology. Beginning in the 1970s and especially in the 1990s, a major component in collections growth has been historical archaeology. Over the past two years, the Museum has actively pursued the acquisition of major collections generated by archaeological work in downtown Albany. The growth of the historical archaeological collections over the past decade resulted in the need for a curator of historical archaeology. Dr. Charles Fisher, Director of the Cultural Resources Survey Program for the Museum, began serving as Curator of Historical Archaeology in April 2004. With this new development, the Museum initiated the Albany Archaeology Center. A large room will be devoted to the Museum's Albany archaeology collections. Plans are underway to install a long-term exhibit on Albany archaeology. (from a NYS Museum newsletter May 4, 2004 article by John Hart)

New York City

Reported by: Nancy Brighton

The Monument Block in Brooklyn

[Submitted by Joan H. Geismar]

With the support of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, and with partial sponsorship by the J. M. Kaplan Fund, professional archaeologists volunteered their time to explore the Monument Lot (Block 44, Lot 14) in Brooklyn. The lot is a small triangle situated just outside the Brooklyn Navy Yard between two segments of the recently formed Vinegar Hill Historic District. The goal of the archaeological investigation was to determine if any evidence remained of a burial crypt that once held the bones of possibly thousands of Revolutionary War prisoners, the majority of whom perished aboard British prison ships anchored in nearby Wallabout Bay. The interment involved several hogsheds of human bones, each hogsh-head equiva-

lent to 63 gallons, collected from shallow graves or washed ashore by the tides during the decades that followed the Revolutionary War. The bones, distributed among thirteen coffins, were placed in the crypt with great fanfare on May 26, 1808. The crypt was then allowed to deteriorate. On June 18, 1873, the bones were quietly removed to a new crypt in newly created nearby Fort Greene Park.

At this writing, the lot on Hudson Avenue is scheduled for development. This motivated the drive to locate any remaining evidence of the original crypt, and to determine if human remains were left behind. To this end, on November 12th and December 10th, 2003, monitored backhoe trenching was undertaken. Archaeologists Dr. Joan H. Geismar and Shelly Spritzer conducted the two-day exploration, and Dr. Sophia Perdikaris, a faunal expert, was in attendance on the first day of testing.

The field investigations uncovered a segment of a relatively massive mortared stone wall 4 feet below the current ground surface. The orientation of this 5-foot high and 2.5-foot wide wall, its relationship to a row of postholes from a long-gone fence that stood in front of the crypt, and its agreement with an 1842 manuscript map, suggest it is a remnant of the 1808 burial crypt. So far, there is no explanation for the absence of its other structural elements. It is possible that the deep excavation required to build the brick wall now separating the lot from the Navy Yard may have infringed on the former crypt. However, at this writing, no exact date has been established for the wall's construction, and why it would have required removal of three of the crypt's walls remains a mystery.

In addition to uncovering a wall segment, the field investigations determined that proposed development on this historical site will not impact an intact feature with integrity. However, this does not diminish the historical significance of the lot as the location of the original tomb that held the skeletal remains of possibly thousands of Revolutionary War martyrs.

[Originally reported in the Suffolk County Archaeological Association Newsletter, Winter 2004 (vol. 30:1), Gaynell Stone, editor]

Above-ground Archeology: Dendrochronology Testing on Eastern Long Island

November 2003 was an exciting time for seven of the oldest structures on the North and South Forks. Dan Miles and Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory of Oxford, England, brought their skills and equipment to the Terry-Mulford House in Orient, the Old House in Cutchogue, Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island, the Halsey House in Southampton, and the Mulford Farm, Home Sweet Home Museum and the Gardiner Brown House in East Hampton.

Including the seven Long Island structures, 60 homes have now been dated in the United States. An example of this method's accuracy is the dating of the Jonathan Fairbanks

house in Massachusetts, thought to be the oldest in New England, to 1641 rather than the 1637 date formerly attached to it. Due to a large backlog of work, answers to the dates of the Long Island houses will not be available until the summer of 2004. They are eagerly awaited by the house owners, as so little is known about the construction of many of them. Each of the societies and owners of the structures had to raise \$ 2,000 - \$ 3,000 to pay for the coring and analysis.

The dendrochronologists were very impressed with the quality and datability of the Long Island houses tested, as very few historic houses are suitable for this technique. The Oxford Laboratory group has tested, among others, the Tower of London, Anne Hathaway's house (which was not found to be her home, as it was too 'young'), and over 598 other structures in England.

Native American Skeletal Finds on Shelter Island Dated

Dr. Vincent Stefan of Lehman College, City University of New York, Forensic Anthropologist/Investigator for Suffolk County, has issued his report on the Shelter Island Native American skeletal remains for the Shinnecock Intertribal Historic Preservation Task Force. They were found 2-3 feet below ground on October 7, 2003 while homeowners were excavating for a barn foundation. This is a very typical scenario for finding skeletal remains on Long Island, but unusual in that the homeowners stopped excavation, and Suffolk County's forensic anthropologist has analyzed samples of the jumbled bones in fragile condition.

A condensed review of his findings indicates that the minimum number of individuals appears to be between seven and eleven individuals. The poorly preserved bone fragments may represent between one and four female and three to seven male individuals. Fusion of ossification centers and dental wear would indicate individuals of 30-55 years of age. The shoveling of the incisors and the platymeric index of femurs are consistent with Native American individuals.

Stature of the individuals ranged between 5'6" to 6' for males and from 5'3" to 5'7" for females. Dental remains are clear evidence of wear and disease (caries, infection, abscess) common in historic/prehistoric Native Americans. (This has been associated with a horticultural diet rather than a foraging one at Cahokia and other archaeological sites -- Gaynell Stone.)

There is no skeletal evidence for the cause of manner of death, though it may be present on the skeletal remains still at the site. Because the burial appears to have been careful and deliberate, interment occurring at or nearly the same time, the cause/manner of death (i.e., warfare, disease epidemic, famine, etc.) could be attributed to all the burials.

Based on the archaeological context, bioarchaeological analysis of the remains and comparative and statistical analyses, Stefan believes the individuals were interred sometime during the period of AD 1410 to 1640. They were likely members of the Manhasset Tribe, historically documented to have inhabited Shelter Island. It is hoped that further analy-

sis of the carbon isotope ratios could determine the major diet (whether plant or marine based) of these individuals. This is the first time in Long Island history that a Native American burial has been preserved and professional assessment of it conducted.

Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City is planning to reconstruct a 17th-century building at the Print Shop site, which has been the subject of excavations for the HSMC field school for several seasons. Questions about how the reconstruction should look are driving research on the various architectural elements that have been recovered through archaeology. In spring 2004, a conservation project was undertaken on 168 window leads from the building to try to date renovations that were performed on a shed addition there. The second phase of the shed had a wooden floor supported by timbers, which were removed before a tile floor was placed during the third and final iteration of the shed structure. A timber mold that was created by the removal of the wooden floor was filled with destruction debris prior to the placement of the tile floor. The feature produced a great deal of window glass and 70 window leads. The window leads from the feature plus 98 from nearby plow zone contexts were treated and examined for inscriptions. Three different types of leads emerged from the 26 legible inscriptions that were found; the first type reads "ÜWM ÜI I ÜI 6 7 I Ü", the second type reads "E W 1689 H A", and the third type reads "EW 1677 8B_... MH20". The various initials may produce information about the manufacturers or glaziers who constructed the windows through further research, while the 1689 date provides a terminus post quem for the shed. Because the windows were generally assembled in England, and they presumably would not have been demolished when brand new, the earliest possible date for the third phase of the shed probably falls between 1691 and 1695, which is about a decade later than was previously suspected. The conservation project further assisted interpretation by identifying specialized leads that would have attached the windows to wooden or iron support bars. Additionally, angles of soldered joints were measured to help determine the shape of the glass panes. The data contributed by conservation will therefore be valuable as the project to reconstruct the 17th-century building progresses.

Anne Arundel County

The Archeological Society of Maryland's Field School at Swan Cove - The Anne Arundel County Lost Towns Project archaeologists look forward to hosting the 33rd annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology for the Archeological Society of Maryland running May 7-17th. The 10-day event will provide ASM volunteers with an opportunity to hone

their excavation skills at Swan Cove, a Providence settlement site featuring the tobacco-pipe kiln and home lot of Emanuel Drue. Drue is one of the earliest artisans known to have worked in the Maryland Colony and the only known 17th-century pipe maker whose kiln site has been discovered in the New World.

Previous excavations located features associated with Drue's occupation, including tobacco pipes, kiln furniture, wasters, and even a pipe-decorating tool. This spring's research will focus on locating the footprint of the kiln, believed to be a large cobblestone feature. In addition, excavations will take place in proximity to a late seventeenth-century structure, possibly the dwelling house of planter Henry Merriday, and two pit features containing a mixture of domestic and kiln-related debris.

Providence (1649) - Lost Towns Project lab director Dave Gadsby is in the final stages of preparing a Multiple Property Submission (MPS) to the National Register of Historic Places for Providence. This work, funded in part by a non-capital Grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, synthesizes the historical and archaeological information about Providence, situating this Puritan settlement within the broader context of the English Atlantic world. Currently, eight Providence sites are known and have undergone some form of archaeological research. Seven of these sites will be nominated to the National Register under the MPS context.

The MPS also served as an internship product for Dave Gadsby as he completed requirements for an MAA from the University of Maryland-College Park Anthropology Department. He'll be leaving the project in late summer to pursue a doctorate at American University. While the Lost Towns team will sorely miss him, this does provide a job opening for anyone in the market!

Leavy Neck - Last summer's excavations at the Leavy Neck site yielded a large assemblage of artifacts from the third quarter 17th-century occupation of Planter William Neale. Of special note was an artifact-filled intrusion, probably a cellar, with an articulated human grave dug into its base. That grave shaft, buried under several layers of domestic debris, dates to the early 1660s. Smithsonian researcher Douglas Owsley is currently undertaking an osteological study of the human bones from the feature, and has produced a preliminary determination that the remains belong to a young man, probably in his late teens, who had a heavily muscled frame, indicating a short lifetime of hard work. The identity of this person will probably remain a mystery. Lost Towns Project staff continues to catalog and analyze the finds from Leavy Neck. A segment about the human remains will appear this summer on the PBS show *History Detectives*.

Town of Herrington - The Lost Towns Project successfully completed a 2003 Non-Capital Grant from the Maryland

Historical Trust to conduct Phase II archaeological investigations in search of the ca. 1660 Town of Herrington in present-day Town Point in southern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Research carried out from January-November 2003 at the Town of Herrington site (18AN1214) tested the cultural significance of 17th-century features identified during a Phase I survey.

This work resulted in the discovery of posthole features related to two domestic structures, as well as an intact 17th-century trash midden. Archival research examined the religious and political affiliations of the town's lot holders, documenting a strong Quaker influence and several individuals, notably Samuel Chew Sr. and Thomas Tench, who held prominent positions in the legislature, courts, and local government.

London Town - Construction will begin this spring on a new \$5.3 million visitor's center, museum, classrooms, and archaeology lab at Historic Londontown House and Gardens, a 23-acre county owned park in Edgewater. Two floors of the new facility will be built underground within an existing wastewater treatment plant shell, and the building's innovative design has been recognized with an architectural award for adaptive reuse.

The site includes the archaeological rediscovery of the "lost town" of London, one of Maryland's premiere tobacco port towns in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Created in 1683, this 100-acre town became an important commercial center in colonial travel and transatlantic trade, and served as the site of the county court from 1683 to 1695. The ongoing archaeological investigation is the largest excavation of its type in Maryland, providing unique opportunities for hands-on participation by school children and the general public.

Master housewright Russell Steele is overseeing the reconstruction of a portion of the rediscovered town, which involves using wood, tools, and craft making techniques available during the colonial period. Steele and his volunteers have already rebuilt the Lord Mayor's Tenement, an archaeologically discovered earthfast dwelling that will be used to interpret architecture, foodways, and commerce of the Chesapeake. The William Brown carpenter shop is slated for reconstruction sometime this summer, and architectural historian Willie Graham is draftsman.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County's Department of Park & Planning archaeologists, Jim Sorensen and Heather Bouslog, have enlisted Montgomery College students, under the direction of Jennie Robinson and Mary Gallagher, in initial excavations of the Civil War-era Blockhouse Point campsite. Constructed in 1861 to guard the C & O Canal and Potomac River fords, the camp was burned by Col. Mosby's Rangers during Gen. Early's raid on Washington in July of 1864. Also, in excavating the Civil War-era Joseph White House, at Park & Planning's Rickman Therapeutic Horse Center, a

Maryland Militia/Confederate belt buckle was unearthed in the house.

Statewide

Ending a long stint as Maryland's top archaeologist, Richard Hughes has moved to another position in the Maryland Historical Trust. He is being succeeded as chief of the Office of Archeology by Maureen Kavanagh. In becoming chief of the Maryland Historical Trusts Office of Heritage Planning and Outreach, Richard will not be giving up archaeology altogether. He will continue to serve as the Trust's liaison with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and the Trust's Easement Committee. Richard came to the Maryland in 1980 as a research archaeologist with Salisbury State University. Since 1982 he has worked in the Archaeology programs at the Trust, becoming its head in 1983. Maureen Kavanagh returns to archaeology after branching off to work on the Trust's Geographical Information System (GIS). Launched in 1991, the Trust's GIS is a computer-based linkage of Maryland's cultural resource inventories, including archaeological and historic sites. She will continue to head the GIS unit. Maureen started working in Maryland archaeology in the mid-1970s and after graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, returned to Maryland to work on the Monocacy River survey. Throughout the 1980s, she worked with the Division of Archeology then housed at the Maryland Geological Survey. Following the merger of the Division of Archeology with the Trust in 1990, Maureen continued working with the archaeological site files and gradually expanded her interest and expertise in the area of GIS.

Virginia

Reported by: Barbara Heath

Historic Mount Vernon

[Submitted by Eleanor Breen, Asst. Archaeologist, Historic Mount Vernon]

This winter, we hunkered down in the lab to catch up on managing the distillery collection, excavated along the spinning house outbuilding in advance of a new drain, and drew up a blueprint for the soon-to-be reconstructed distillery. In January and February, we reorganized our storeroom with a particular focus on the artifact collection from the six years of excavations at Washington's Distillery. This assemblage is predominantly comprised of architectural material – pounds of sandstone, brick, schist, and mortar.

Mount Vernon's Preservation Department recently restored the spinning house. This building houses an overseer's quarters on the north and a room for textile production to the south. As part of this project, it was determined that the spinning house needed a new drain to keep water from its foundation. The archaeologists put in four units along the west side, the location of the proposed drain. The two units at the

northwest corner of the building yielded postholes for an earlier generation of fencing and one larger mystery post intruded by the spinning house foundation (c. 1775). This posthole contained an early assemblage of artifacts (debased scratch blue white salt glazed stoneware and one creamware sherd), in addition to fragments of a colonoware vessel. We currently hypothesize that this substantial posthole may be related to one of the earlier outbuildings on the property that existed before George Washington's major rebuilding and reorganization campaign in 1775.

Esther White and Dennis Pogue met every other week with Orlando Ridout of the Maryland Historical Trust and Willie Graham of Colonial Williamsburg, the architectural history consultants for the distillery reconstruction project. Each meeting the group focused on a different topic (the floors, the furnaces, the loft space, etc.) offering their unique archaeological, historical, or architectural perspective. The sessions resulted in a solid blueprint for the historical structure. The group is now meeting with architects and engineers to create a historically accurate reconstruction.

Based on the archaeological evidence, detailed historical record, and knowledge of late 18th-century construction methods, George Washington's stone building was one story, contained four furnaces for five stills and one boiler, and had space for mashing and fermenting in a large 60 x 30 foot room. The building contained a loft, housing both grain and distillery workers. Last summer we excavated what appeared to be a stone wall partitioned room on the north end of the building. After removing destruction layers, we exposed five postholes containing well-preserved pine posts dividing this northern 15 x 30 foot space. We interpret these as the office and whiskey storage rooms completely separated from the whiskey production area by a solid sandstone partition wall (logical when considering the combustible nature of alcohol and fire). This division of space accounts for the asymmetrical façade of the industrial building. Architects and archaeologists continue to struggle over a couple of unresolved issues – the height of the floor in relation to the flow of the water throughout the building and visitor access to the second floor. Our financial backers, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, recently proposed that the second floor be the home of a whiskey history museum and the first stop on the new "American Whiskey Heritage Trail" that would lead from Mount Vernon to points west. This summer, we will be back out at the distillery, excavating furnaces and drains, in addition to testing in advance of construction. We plan to post bi-monthly updates on our progress on the new Mount Vernon website (www.mountvernon.org).

Ontario

Reported by Suzanne Plousos

Royal Military College

[Based on a news release by Richard Baiden, submitted by: Sue Bazely, Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation]

Kingston's biggest archaeological excavation since the mid-1980s is underway at the Royal Military College. Archaeologist Sue Bazely, Executive Director of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, is directing a 35-person crew at Point Frederick on the RMC waterfront. The current focus is in the area just west and north of the main entrance gate to the former Royal Navy dockyard. Here military and naval artifacts and possible structural remains dating from the War of 1812 have been encountered. The Sherman tank at the entranceway to the College is believed to overlie the remains of a military blockhouse.

The general RMC area has long been considered to be a rich source of archaeological information concerning the War of 1812. Work at the site is, however, complicated by incomplete official records and lack of maps for the period of the War of 1812.

The archaeological project, awarded by the Department of National Defence and budgeted at approximately \$1 million, was won by the Foundation in open international competition under the regulations of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The archaeological work was a necessary precondition for the College to construct a proposed dormitory on the site and is scheduled for completion by July 15.

Brigadier-General Jean Leclerc Commandant of RMC is pleased that the Cataraqui Foundation was selected to preserve and document the site. He noted that the project demonstrates RMC and Department of National Defence commitment to responsible stewardship of Canada's rich military heritage for the benefit of both the local community and future generations of Canadians. Museum curator, Ross McKenzie of the Fort Frederick Museum, echoes this enthusiasm. McKenzie hopes to display artifacts from the excavation among the already extensive collection of military artifacts in the Fort Frederick Museum and in the new dormitory itself.

In its 21st year as a registered non-profit charity, the Foundation was established in 1983 to oversee the excavation of Fort Frontenac in Kingston. The Foundation now provides archaeological research and educational resources to serve all Ontario. The Foundation is unique in Ontario in that it develops and maintains archaeological collections for public education programs as well as conducting research programs for governments and the private sector. Full Foundation information is available at www.carf.info.