



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

March 2017

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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/oPublic Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000.  
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### 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.

The Council invites professional and avocational archaeologists, historians, material culture specialists, historic preservationists, and students to become members. An application form may be found at <http://www.cneha.org/membership.html>

## CNEHA ANNUAL MEETING 2017

### *Taverns, Transportation and Trade*

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

November 10-12, 2017

Submitted by Ellen Marlatt, Conference Chair



## Raise your Tankard!

We are very excited to host the 2017 annual meeting at the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel and Conference Center in historic Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Located on the Piscataqua River waterfront, the conference celebrates Portsmouth's nearly 400-year-old role as the center of commerce, travel and industry in the Piscataqua region. In addition to the rich history of Portsmouth, the conference will draw on a variety of resources around the Piscataqua Region and southern Maine.

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The conference will begin on Friday with a day of walking tours including Strawberry Banke Museum and other Portsmouth sites such as the MacPhaedris-Warner house, (c. 1716), as well as the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail and the Portsmouth African Burying Ground Memorial Park. Other tours will venture out from Portsmouth to explore the historic forts, Piscataqua region and colonial archaeological sites in South Berwick, Maine. A special tour of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is planned for Sunday afternoon. Workshops will explore the latest in non-intrusive survey techniques such as remote sensing, aerial drones, GPR, and marine survey technologies as well as hands-on opportunities to identify 18th-century ceramics from Strawberry Banke Museum's extensive collections.

Portsmouth has a long and rich history as a center of the brewing industry, so Friday night's reception will feature the region's heralded microbrewing industry. At the Saturday banquet, attendees will enjoy a classic New England clam bake with lobster and all the trimmings as well as entertainment by talented local musicians. Sessions on Saturday and Sunday will discuss

archaeology sites throughout northeast North America but will prominently feature the archaeologists and sites of the Piscataqua region as well as the rest of New Hampshire and Maine. Aside from formal activities, attendees will have time to explore Portsmouth and the Piscataqua on their own to enjoy the fine food and hospitality, a thriving artists' community and many unique shopping experiences. Indeed, many archaeologists will arrive well before the conference and/or stay beyond, to take advantage of these opportunities.

The City of Portsmouth is located on the Piscataqua River which divides New Hampshire and Maine. The venue is about one hour from three major airports - Boston Logan International Airport to the south, Manchester-Boston Regional Airport to the west, and Portland International Jetport to the north. A special daily parking rate has been negotiated for the conference, although once in town, attendees will find events and activities easily accessible on foot. Transportation and hotel registration details will be available shortly on the conference webpage.

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### **UPDATE—Northeast Historical Archaeology**

Reported by: Susan Maguire and Maria O'Donovan

#### ***From Buffalo:***

Hi, Sue Maguire here with a final update from SUNY Buffalo State. Volume 44 (2015) has been mailed to all the members. Hope you enjoy this thematic volume on the War of 1812! Volume 45 (2016) is in the final review stages and will be sent to the printer shortly. Look for this in your mailboxes by mid-April! Volume 45 is an open volume but has a strong focus on material culture. The feature article, by Olive Jones and Allen Vegotsky, is an extended coverage of Robert Turlington and the bottles he used to distribute his Balsam of Life, a patent medicine sold in distinctive packaging for over 175 years. This volume contains a lot of great reading so keep an eye on your mailbox. Thanks again for all your support for me during my tenure as editor. I hope that I have maintained the standards set by the editors that served before me. I am excited to pass the reins on to Maria O'Donovan at Binghamton University. She has many great ideas for the journal going forward.

#### ***From Binghamton:***

Hi, this is Maria O'Donovan with my first contribution to the newsletter. I am very excited to be taking over as editor in 2017. I want to thank the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Board, and especially Sue Maguire, for the warm welcome and assistance they have given me during the transition. I also wish

to thank Sue Maguire for her dedicated work as editor for the last eight years. She has set high standards for the journal that I will do my best to maintain. I look forward to meeting all of you. Please keep the great paper submissions coming!

Transition of the editorship to Binghamton University is underway and I am working to make this as smooth as possible. The location of the back issue content in electronic format will change from SUNY Buffalo State to ORB, Binghamton University's digital commons site. You will be able to access back issue content during the transition and we will keep you updated on the date for that transition.

Volume 46 (2017) focuses on American ceramics. This issue will feature new developments on Philadelphia Queensware. Look for it in your mailboxes this fall. A new poster in our Telling Time series may be coming soon. Make sure you have a whole set for your lab, including our two newest: Telling Time – Historic Lighting and Telling Time in the American Revolution. Posters can be purchased for \$10.00 each plus shipping. For ordering information during the transition, please contact me at [neha@binghamton.edu](mailto:neha@binghamton.edu). Updates on ordering information will be posted in the newsletter.



**CNEHA AT 50:  
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**  
Ottawa 2016 Conference Summary and  
Statement of Gratitude

The 2016 Ottawa conference was held at Ottawa City Hall and the Lord Elgin Hotel over Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend, between October 7th and 9th, 2016. A total of 142 participants came to the Nation's Capital to help celebrate CNEHA's 50th anniversary by attending a workshop, museums, and tours; partaking in paper and poster sessions; and socializing at the reception and banquet.

The organizing committee hoped all had a pleasurable and rewarding time and would like to thank the following for their assistance during the conference: Allison Bain, Doug Beaton, Kylee Best, Ellen Blaubergs, Charles Bradley, Dena Doroszenko, Louise Fox, Stacey Girling-Christie, Nadine Kopp, Erica Laanela, Barbara Leskovec, Judy Logan, Eva MacDonald, Peter MacLeod, Aaron Mior, David Morrison, Ben Mortimer, Helen Moore, Stéphane Noël, Jean-Luc Pilon, Virginia Sheehan, Chris Tulloch, Heather Tulloch, James Whitham and Janet Young.

CNEHA is a small organization which prides itself in maintaining moderate rates for conference registra-



*Reception at Jean Pigott Place*



*Karen Metheny cutting anniversary cake*

tion, tours, and workshops. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were able to provide informative research papers in a pleasant environment at a modest cost. To our Platinum Sponsors: Archaeological Services Inc., Earthworks, and Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc.; to our Gold Sponsors: AECOM – Burlington, New Jersey, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research and RGA, Inc.; to our Silver Sponsors: A.M. Archaeological Associates, Chrysalis Archaeology, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc., Ellen Blaubergs, Eva MacDonald and David Robertson, Fisher Archaeological Consultants, Golder Associates Ltd., Groupe de recherche en archéométrie, Université Laval, Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC., and Past Recovery Archaeological Services, Inc.; and to our Supporters: the Lord Elgin Hotel, the Ontario Archaeological Society, Parks Canada and Université Laval; we raise a trowel and say thank you so very much!

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and Tour Organizer  
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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT**

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

Please send news for the June issue of the CNEHA Newsletter by May 15 to the appropriate provincial or state editor. Our changeover to an electronic newsletter continues to go well, and we are delighted to be able to send news to our members much more quickly!

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## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

### **New Hampshire**

Reported by: Dennis Howe

*Elizabeth Hall (April 3, 1930 to March 10, 2017)*

[Submitted by David Starbuck]

Elizabeth "Betty" Hall, who was long the manager of the Archaeology Laboratory at Plymouth State University, passed away on March 10 at age 86. A resident of Keene, NH, Betty received her degrees in Education from Keene State and taught for her entire life, after which she adopted archaeology as her hobby. Betty then participated on numerous "digs" in Virginia, before joining Plymouth State on archaeology projects that lasted from 1996 up to the present day. In the summers, Betty first worked with us at Canterbury Shaker Village, followed by many field seasons in Scotland, and then many seasons at military excavations in northern New York State. Along the way, Betty took graduate courses at Plymouth State and received her M.A. in Heritage Studies (2007) on the topic "Canterbury Shaker Village: Medicines as Seen Through Archeological Artifacts." Betty even served as President of the





*Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Britton Hall*

New Hampshire Archeological Society, and throughout every school year, Betty drove on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Plymouth State (100 miles each way) to supervise students in the laboratory on the second floor of Rounds Hall. She was a wonderful mentor to many students, and she invariably was one of the most diligent and inspirational workers that we had ever seen. She published articles about archaeology, she attended numerous archaeology meetings, and she showed all of us that archaeology is such a fun hobby that it remains exciting until the very end of our days.

We all have our favorite “Betty stories.” One that comes to mind is that when we dug in Scotland, Betty was always in the field with 20-year-old students, digging in the rain with a “midgie net” over her head (to slow down the swarms of insects). One day she slipped on the rocks she was drawing, flew horizontally through the air, and gashed open her face when she landed on the stones. Her immediate response was to tell the students, “Don’t tell David -- he might send me home!” Needless to say, the students told on her, even while Betty tried to pretend that nothing had happened. (Betty was trying to appear calm even as the blood ran down her face.) The rest of us can only hope that we will still have some of that gutsy determination when we too are in our ‘80s!

Contact Info: Jonathan Hall 603-918-1237.

## Massachusetts

Reported by: Linda Ziegenbein

### ***Project 400: First Features from Original Plymouth Colony Settlement Discovered in Downtown Plymouth***

[Submitted by Christa Beranek and David Landon, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston]

In May and June of 2016, a field school from the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in partnership with Plimoth Plantation and the Town of Plymouth, undertook a fourth season of work as part of Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey. The approaching 400th anniversary (1620-2020) of the founding of Plymouth Colony, New England’s first permanent English settlement, provides a unique opportunity to revisit our scholarly understanding of the Colony’s history. The project includes reassessment of the past archaeology of the Plymouth Colony and new excavations to locate sites that were part of the early colonial town. Working with community partners and descendant organizations, including the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and local museums, we are undertaking a series of initiatives focused on the Plymouth Colony to help advance a complex, inclusive, and scholarly understanding of the region’s Colonial and Native communities. UMass Boston’s NEH funded research focuses on three primary research questions:

- 1) How did the Colonists’ actions define an English colonial landscape?
- 2) What are the ecological consequences of the Plymouth Colony settlement?
- 3) How did interactions between Colonists and Native people create new practices in some cultural spheres while others remained more traditional or distinct?

To answer these questions, we began a program of geophysical survey, excavation, environmental sampling, and collections reanalysis in 2013. The project is directed by David Landon and Christa Beranek, with the assistance of a number of other researchers from UMass Boston (John Steinberg and Brian Damiata (geophysics); Heather Trigg (paleoethnobotany)) and Plimoth Plantation (Kathryn Ness). James Deetz, Roland Robbins, and others had excavated outlying sites from the 17th-century colony during the 1960s and 1970s, but no one had located any intact archaeological features from the original palisaded settlement, long believed to lie under modern downtown Plymouth. We



Figure 1. *The excavation area at the margin of Burial Hill, Plymouth, MA.*

are pleased to report that in 2016, we located the first known features from the 17th-century town.

Since 2013, we have been systematically surveying and testing a strip of land along the eastern edge of Burial Hill, a historic cemetery, in downtown Plymouth (Fig. 1). We purposefully avoided disturbing any of the historic graves and monuments on Burial Hill, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. Before its use as a burial ground, which began in the 1680s, Burial Hill was known as Fort Hill. Local tradition held that the fort built by the colonists was situated near the top of the hill, with a palisaded town running down the hill towards Plymouth Bay. At the east edge of the burial ground, there is a gap of roughly 20 meters between the modern street and the start of the burials. This open space was the site of schools, stables, and warehouses in the 19th century (Fig. 2), all now demolished, and we have been systematically testing the space between the back walls of these buildings and the burials with ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey (Fig. 3) and systematic excavations.

We began at the north end of this stretch, several years ago, and have been moving south, so that we would cross from the outside of the 17th-century town to the interior. Our 2014 excavations defined the back walls of many of the 19th-century buildings in order to evaluate the effects that their construction and demolition would have had on the surrounding deposits. Although our target is the 17th century, we are also committed to

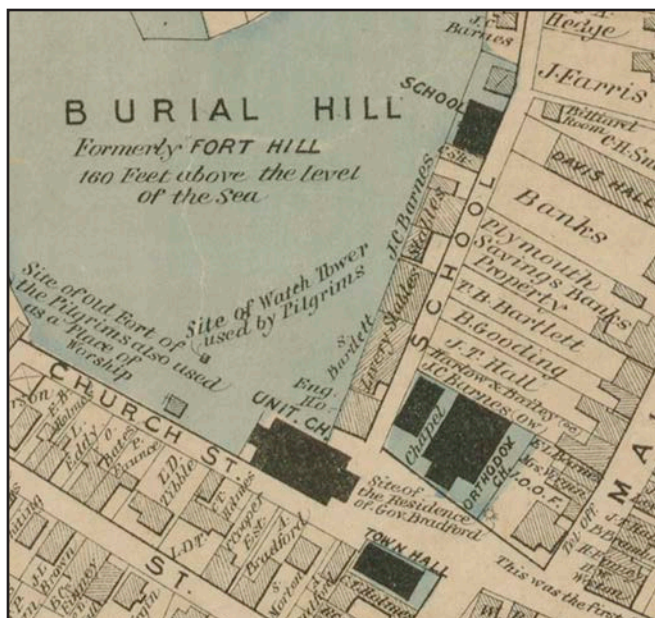


Figure 2. *Detail of the 1874 J. B. Beers & Co. map of Plymouth showing Burial Hill. Our work is located along School Street; the 19th-century buildings in this section were all removed as part of late 19th and early 20th-century beautification efforts.*

interpreting the evidence of earlier and later Plymouth that we encounter. We used the results of the 2013-2015 seasons to produce a brochure and an exhibit in a local museum on the changing landscape of our study area, from a Native village to an early colonial town, a burial ground, part of urban Plymouth, and finally a piece of the local landscape that memorializes the colonial past.

In 2015, we found our first intact early deposits. One 1x2 m excavation unit uncovered a section of a Native stone tool making workshop; the lack of any historic period artifacts suggested that this site predates the colonial settlement and was outside the boundaries of the palisaded town. In 2015, we also found a very small segment of an early colonial feature: a pit or trench that was truncated by the demolition cut of a later building on one side and ran into the wall of our excavation unit on the other. The disturbed deposits above this contained a small number of 17th-century artifacts, including the heel of a pipe marked with the initials RB surrounding a dagger and a heart (Fig. 4), the mark of Richard Berryman from 17th-century Bristol, England.

## 2016 Results

On the strength of this discovery, we opened 8 square meters adjacent to this in 2016 which contained a buried ground surface and a complex of 17th-century



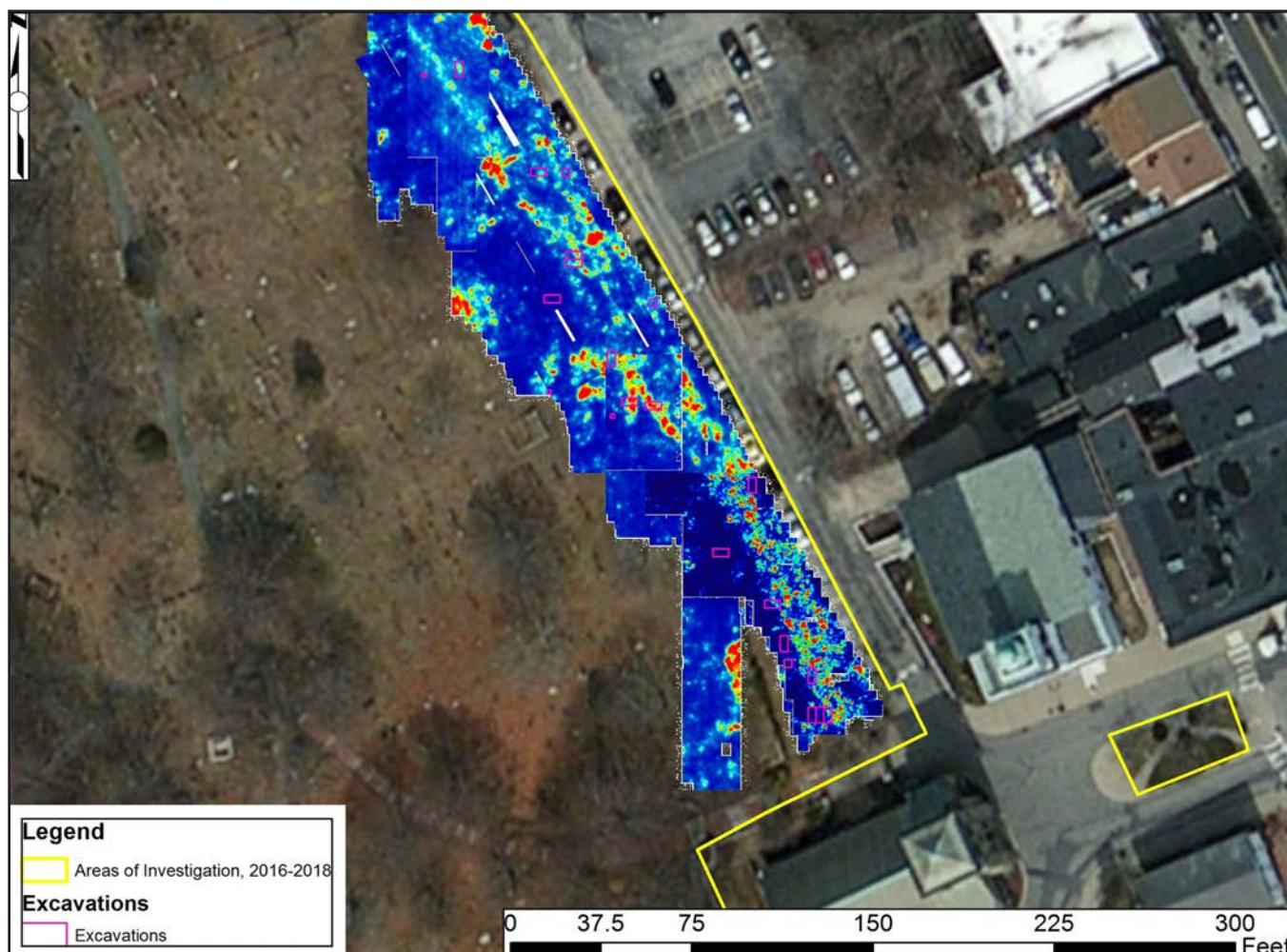


Figure 3. A portion of the geophysical survey area along School Street, showing GPR slices. Some of the long linear reflectors parallel to the street are the rear walls of the buildings that formerly lined the street.



Figure 4. The RB pipe bowl discovered in 2015.

features (Fig. 5), all presenting as soil stains. Our 2015 excavations were located immediately east of this photograph (beyond the top edge of the excavation area). The dark soil along the eastern edge of the excavation area is the continuation of the feature discovered in 2015, a trench with a steep profile, quite broad at the top and deep and narrow at the bottom running NW to SE. It was filled with a very organically enriched soil with a low artifact density: shell and animal bone, fragments of Native ceramic vessels, and a small number of historic ceramics (redware and North Devon), a trade bead, and a small number of nails (Fig. 6). In the south central part of the excavation area is a planting hole that contained a large number of fish bones. Running north to south across the 3 meters that we had open was a shallow trench that contained trade beads, straight pins, lithic flakes, and small fragments of Native and European ceramics including some early stoneware and Border ware. In the center of the trench was a much deeper pit used to bury a calf, largely articulated though



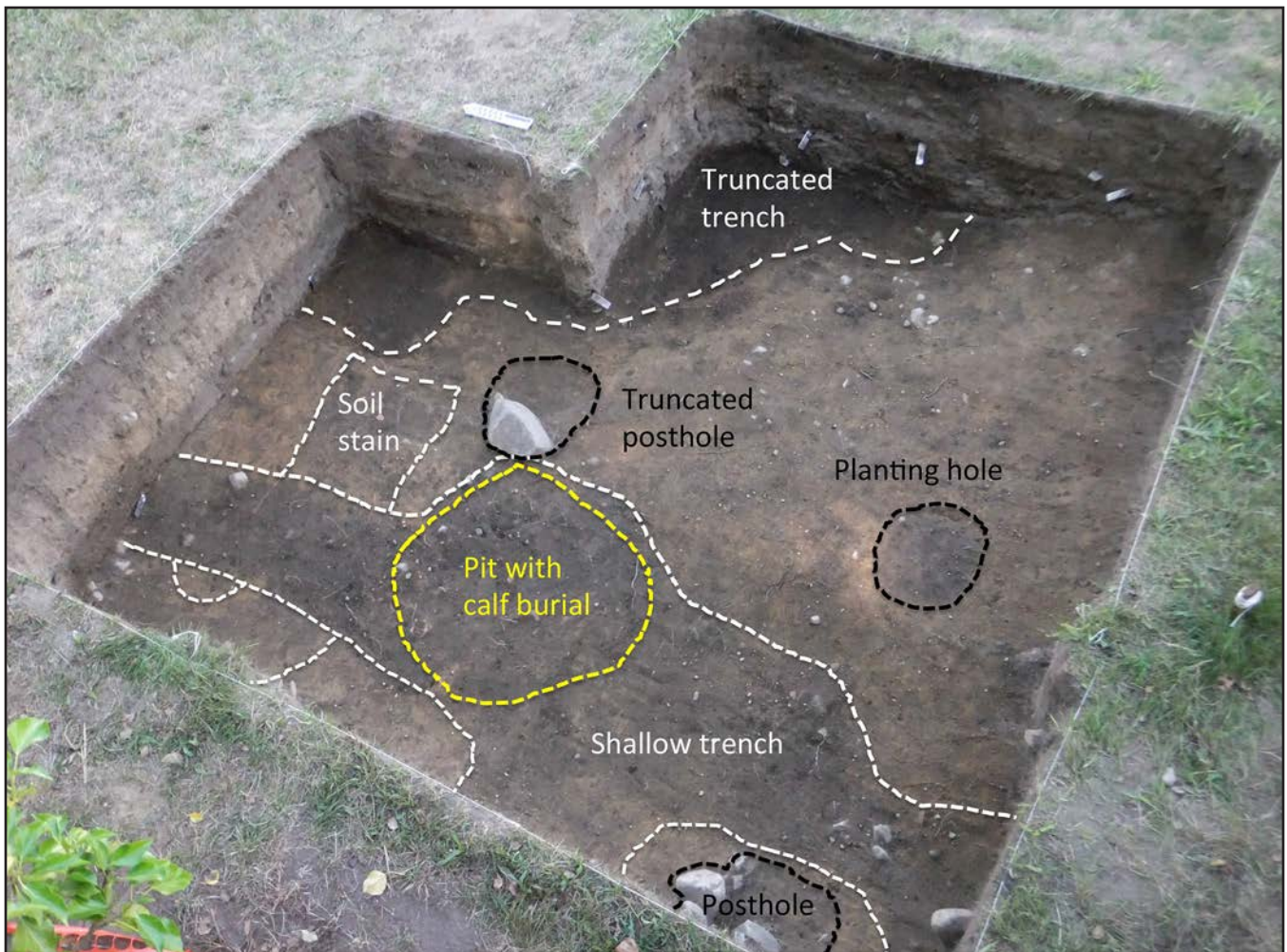


Figure 5. The main 2016 excavation area, with early features outlined.



Figure 6. A selection of artifacts from the early features and overlying buried ground surface; top row, ceramic types: Border ware, North Devon, and stoneware; bottom row: lead shot, trade beads, and straight pins.





Figure 7. *Excavation of the calf burial in progress.*

missing its head, rear limbs, and feet (Fig. 7). There are post holes both east and west of the trench and another faint soil stain at the north edge of the excavation area. During excavation, we collected soil samples for flotation and block samples for geomorphological analysis (Fig. 8); these studies, as well as analysis of the artifacts, are in progress. One of our primary research questions is whether the Native ceramic fragments and lithic debitage indicate 17th-century Native-colonist interaction or whether they were part of an older underlying site, redeposited in the 17th century.

Our preliminary interpretation is that all of these are features outside a house, and that the shallow N-S trench represents the slight depression created by a drip line or walking path just outside a building. Historians of the early town believe that John Alden and Miles Standish owned the houses in this part of the settlement, raising the possibility that we are close to the location of one of their original home sites. Given these features and the Native site excavated in 2015 north of this area, we believe that we have identified the inside and outside of the settlement, and we hope



Figure 8. *Removing a block sample for geomorphological analysis.*



Figure 9.  
*The assemblage of potentially 17th-century artifacts from mixed contexts in a second excavation area including pipe stem and bowl fragments, manganese mottled and Staffordshire slip wares (lower left), red earthenwares (top center), Border ware (center), stoneware and North Devon (lower center), daub (top right), Buckley (middle right), Native ceramic (lower right), and a piece of lead shot.*



to be able identify the location of the palisade wall in future seasons.

Elsewhere on Burial Hill in 2016, we identified another Native site, with a very different lithic assemblage than the site identified in 2015, dominated by quartz rather than rhyolite. Further up the slope, a single 1x2 meter excavation unit recovered a significant collection of likely 17th-century artifacts (Fig. 9) in mixed contexts which included a piece of lead shot, red earthenwares, North Devon and Border wares, brown stoneware, and smoking pipes. This relatively large collection of 17th-century types suggests that there is another site in close proximity. We will be returning to the areas with 17th-century features and artifacts in 2017.

In 2016, we also started exploratory testing elsewhere in Plymouth. Because of centuries of urban development, we expect areas of preservation to be small and discontinuous, and strongly affected by several waves of urban renewal and other formation processes. Town Brook is a historic watercourse that has been dammed and filled, creating a narrow brook where there was once a broader estuary. We did coring along the mar-

gins of this area to begin the process of locating the historic shore line and to take a pollen core to study long term environmental change. We also tested an open lot on Cole's Hill in Plymouth, but there found deposits primarily relating to the 19th-century families that inhabited the lot. You can read more about the 19th century discoveries in a series of blog posts ([blogs.umb.edu/fiskecenter/category/plymouth](http://blogs.umb.edu/fiskecenter/category/plymouth)).

### **Public Outreach and Collaborative Work**

From its start, the project has had significant collaborative and public outreach components. Burial Hill is owned by the Town of Plymouth, so we have been working closely with the town offices, local museums, and organizations supporting heritage tourism, which is a major focus of the regional economy. We have also been working collaboratively with descent groups, both Native and Anglo-American. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe trace their history to the Wampanoag people who lived in the Plymouth area in the 17th century; the town of Plymouth was built on the site of the Native village of Patuxet. In 2016, as a result of consultation with the tribe, two members of the Mashpee Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff joined the field

project for the duration of the five week field season. We have also reached out to several Anglo-American descent organizations, including the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Alden Kindred and keep them up to date on our work. Because of its urban location, on the edge of a historic burial ground which itself attracts many tourists, our excavations have always been conducted in the public eye. Members of the field crew spend significant amounts of time talking to the public (both walk-up visitors and organized tours), explaining the nature of our work, the research questions, and our findings (Fig. 10). Many visitors, both tourists and area residents, identify as either literal or cultural descendants of the English colonists and feel strongly connected to the local history and our work.

In addition to interacting with visitors to the site, we

also produce social media content both while in the field and during the year as we process and interpret the summer's finds (Blog: [blog.umb.edu/fiskecenter](http://blog.umb.edu/fiskecenter); Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FiskeCenter/>; Instagram as UMBArchaeology).

In 2016, we expanded our outreach to Plimoth Plantation visitors, holding an open lab in one of the visitor center galleries (Fig. 11). Field school students rotated through the lab, working on both the newly excavated collection and older collections held by Plimoth Plantation. Collections management and processing of archaeological materials has traditionally remained an exclusive activity that takes place out of view of the public. At Plimoth Plantation, Curator of Collections, Kate Ness has been working to move collections processing out of secluded spaces and into the public eye.



Figure 10. *On-site public interpretation.*



Figure 11. *Open lab in the Plimoth Plantation visitor center.*



## Connecticut

Reported by: Cece Saunders

### Freeman Black Governors' Homesite

[Submitted by Warren Perry, Jerry Sawyer, and Janet Woodruff, Central Connecticut State University, Archaeology Laboratory for African & African Diaspora Studies]

Between the mid-18th century and mid-19th century, African American residents in several Connecticut towns maintained a significant annual ritual: the election of Black Governors.

The African/African Descendant population of Connecticut had grown throughout the early 18th century, and by the mid-18th century the role of Black Governorship was established. At first, it was a statewide title, and as many African and Descendant people as could, would come to Hartford, the capital, for the election, which was held right after the white election. Therefore, captive Africans often attended with their captors. Some of the earliest identified Black Governors were the captives of the men elected as white governor, i.e., Samuel Huntington, who held a captive man of the same name who was elected Black Governor simultaneously.

Over time, and as more and more African Descendant people were free instead of captive, the Governorships became localized to towns with significant Black populations. Thus, Norwich, Hartford, New London, etc., all elected separate Black Governors. The custom dwindled after the 1820s or 1830s, but some towns, notably Derby and Seymour, did hold elections into the 1850s.

Contemporary accounts dismissed the practice as an imitation of white society, but in reality, the elections paralleled customs drawn from West African men's societies. The term "Governor," and the deliberate parodying of some English-derived elements of Election Day, may have served to disguise the transmission of African culture, as an act of resistance. Although the term "Governor" seems to be almost exclusive to Connecticut, the election of "Kings" was widespread throughout New England. Apparently, there was a trend toward electing Governors who were African-born or the sons of African-born men.

Election Day in the Northeast is very similar to the celebration of Pinkster as described by James Fenimore Cooper, and it also shares characteristics with Carnival, as it evolved in the Caribbean, Brazil, and New Orleans. All of these celebrations included choosing a King. Note, too, that Brazil, New Orleans, and the Caribbean all had very large African populations, particularly an African Diasporan population, largely from West and West Central Africa.

In 2010, Dr. Warren Perry and Professor Jerry Sawyer of Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) initiated the Freeman Black Governors' Project, the first archaeological examination of a Connecticut Black Governor site. The property is part of Osbornedale State Park in Derby, and is bordered by hiking trails and a paved road.

The house and land were deeded to Quosh Freeman in 1800, along with his manumission. Both Quosh, who was African-born, and his son Roswell served as Black Governors of Derby, and their reputations and prominence afforded them a measure of respect among white

*Warren Perry (left) and Jerry Sawyer, both of CCSU, lay out a unit at the front of the Quosh Freeman house at the Freeman Black Governors Homesite in Derby, Connecticut.*





*CCSU archaeologist Jerry Sawyer (center) identifies a newly-recovered artifact in the kitchen area of the Quosh Freeman house, while Janet Woodruff of CCSU (back left) updates James Cole, Freeman family descendant.*

residents as well as Black. Unlike most Black families in the 19th century, the Freemans owned their homesite for three generations and 110 years, which bespeaks their relative affluence and social position.

The site was originally envisioned as a single dwelling and outbuilding, but during four seasons of excavation, the homesite revealed a more complex landscape. Quosh's dwelling was originally assumed to have been the largest foundation on the property, but a walkover of the site revealed a terrace with a steep, stone-walled dropoff. This was confirmed as the original Freeman house, as described by local author Jane De Forest Shelton, who published an article about the Freemans in the March, 1894, issue of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*.

Two other foundations on the property were excavated as dwellings. The aforementioned large foundation, which appeared to be of 1880s vintage, yielded literally nothing: not a nail nor a sherd of glass to indicate a structure. This dearth of material and the apparent age support the hypothesis that this foundation was intended for Roswell Freeman's younger son and heir, Bliss Scott Freeman, who died in 1884 or 1885, leaving the house unfinished.

The smaller of the two "satellite" foundations was excavated in 2016. It appeared to be from the mid-to-late 19th century, contemporaneous with eldest son William Oliver's marriage and the birth of his only child. William died in 1910, leaving no heirs, and the land passed



*Exterior and interior of 8 cm by 4.5 cm hinged tin, possibly a cigarette case, found in Freeman midden.*



out of the family, but the house was occupied until the 1930s.

In addition to the three dwellings and a barn, excavators located and excavated a midden dating from the 19th century. The material recovered ranged from early shell-edged pearlware to watch parts and cut-glass tableware. The upper layer appeared to have been deposited in a single episode, while the lower stratum implied a more organic pattern of dumping.

Living descendants of Quosh Freeman have taken an interest in the project and have provided genealogical information as well as participating in the archaeology. Their presence and enthusiasm have offered a priceless link between the Freeman family and the effort to reconstruct their lives.

As usual, the documentary info about Black Governors is virtually all written from the point of view of white observers. Therefore, the event is observed only from the intersection of Black and white. Because the narratives focus on the parts observable by white people, written accounts are skewed toward Election Day, and barely address the other 364 days a year. Election was viewed and documented as a predominately male event, so aside from the aforementioned Jane De Forest Shelton article, very little was written about the women and children in the Freeman households. Archaeology to the rescue! The homesite has revealed a much fuller image of the Freemans' lives, spanning three generations.

This is the only Connecticut Black Governor site that has been studied archaeologically. The CCSU team would be very interested to meet archaeologists from other states who are looking at Governors and Kings. Since many of the Black Governors were captive to prominent white men, some of their history may have been uncovered but unrecognized.

### **A Historical Murder Mystery from Farmington, Connecticut, Part I**

Submitted by: Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD, *Emeritus* CT State Archaeologist, University of Connecticut

Kristen Hartnett-McCann, PhD, D-ABFA. CT Office of the State's Chief Medical Examiner

Gerald J. Conlogue, MHS, RT (R)(CT)(MR)  
Quinnipiac University

Richard Gonzalez, PhD, Drexel University

Seasonal rains eroded an earthen berm on private property situated along the eastern bank of the historic Farmington Canal in the spring of 1985. The homeowner hired a young man recently discharged from the U.S. Army to construct a stone retaining wall, restoring soil deposits in hopes of preventing further erosion. While excavating the embankment, the young worker revealed what he initially thought was a thick tree root. Before he could snip the stem, it dislodged in his hand and he realized the obstacle was not a root, but rather, a long bone.

Having some military experience in human anatomy, the construction worker cautiously identified the bone as part of a human leg. He notified his employer of the discovery, but was told that the house had been built on the estate of an old colonial farmstead and that the bone was most likely a buried domestic animal, probably cow, and was told to resume work.

In fact, the Farmington, Connecticut, property has had a lengthy, interesting and diversified history. Located on a high terrace above the confluence of the Farmington and Pequabuck Rivers, the area of discovery is north of the Lewis-Walpole Site, a Pre-Contact occupation dating as early as the Paleo-Indian Period and the scene of a late-17th century battle between the local Tunxis tribe and the Stockbridge Indians of Massachusetts. In 1781, Revolutionary War French General Comte de Rochambeau's army bivouacked there during their outward march to join George Washington in New York. As mentioned, it also lies adjacent to the early 19th century north-south running Farmington Canal, which connected Northampton to New Haven and was built primarily by Irish immigrant and African-American labor. Finally, the Town of Farmington was a noted pathway for the Underground Railroad with "stations" in the neighborhood. Today the land borders Riverview Cemetery, Farmington's 2nd burying ground developed in the mid-19th century and still in use. So, a lot of significant history has occurred in this very localized area.

Although the property owner turned a blind eye toward the find, the young man remained curious enough to continue his exploration beyond the needs of the retaining wall and carefully exposed the remains while taking time away from his hired duties. Fully revealed, what he found astonished him: a human skeleton lying on its stomach, the left leg extended laterally, the skull and some of the hands and feet missing and long bones exhibiting numerous and severe cut marks. Originally hypothesizing that the remains were an unmarked

burial from the adjacent cemetery, he realized that he found something quite unusual and not associated with a normal interment. Without the property owner's permission and with the risk of being fired from his job, he notified the Farmington Police Department.

Detectives swarmed the site, roping the area off as a crime scene and quickly gathered the remains, transporting them to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office. Dr. Catherine A. Gavin, the state's ME at the time, identified the remains as that of a young adult male (20 – 30 years of age) and ruled the discovery a homicide since the specimen exhibited signs of decapitation and repeated attack with sharp metal weapons. However, the cortical loss exhibited on the skeleton led Dr. Gavin to conclude that the trauma was inflicted well over 100 years ago and not part of a modern criminal investigation. As a result, the case was dropped. The Farmington Police Department has no extant record of the investigation. The only surviving log is a one-page report (Case H-85-1518) from the medical examiner's office and two local newspaper articles.

The bones were boxed and placed in storage where they remained for 30 years, an ignored historical cold case until 2014 when Dr. Richard Gonzalez, a physical anthropologist at Quinnipiac University, pulled the boxes while volunteering his time at the ME's office. Richard reexamined the skeleton, recording that the individual had been decapitated at the 6th cervical vertebrae and exhibited numerous repeated episodes of sharp-blunt trauma to the vertebrae, pelvis, and limbs. The degree of mutilation beyond death may suggest a "ritual" killing or hate crime.

Due to its potential significance and varied historical outcomes, the case has been reopened with permission from the current CT ME, Dr. James R. Gill. A collaborative research team including forensic anthropologist, Kristen Hartnett-McCann (CT OCME); diagnostic paleo-imager Gerald Conlogue (Quinnipiac University); and the former CT state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni (UConn) are reexamining the specimen using modern forensic techniques including CT scans cross-sectioning the cut marks to determine weaponry, radiocarbon (AMS) dating and DNA sequencing for biological ancestry. Researchers include faculty from the University of Connecticut, University of Arizona, Drexel and Quinnipiac University. We hope to have a complete "virtual" skeleton digitized prior to reburial.

We are confident that the analysis of this "history

mystery" will yield important results by this spring/summer. So, stay tuned for Part II.

### **New Jersey**

Reported by: Craig Lukezic (for Lynn Rakos)

#### **Brearley House, Lawrence Township, Mercer County**

[Submitted by Ian Burrow, BurrowIntoHistory LLC,  
114 Taylor Terrace, Hopewell NJ 08525]

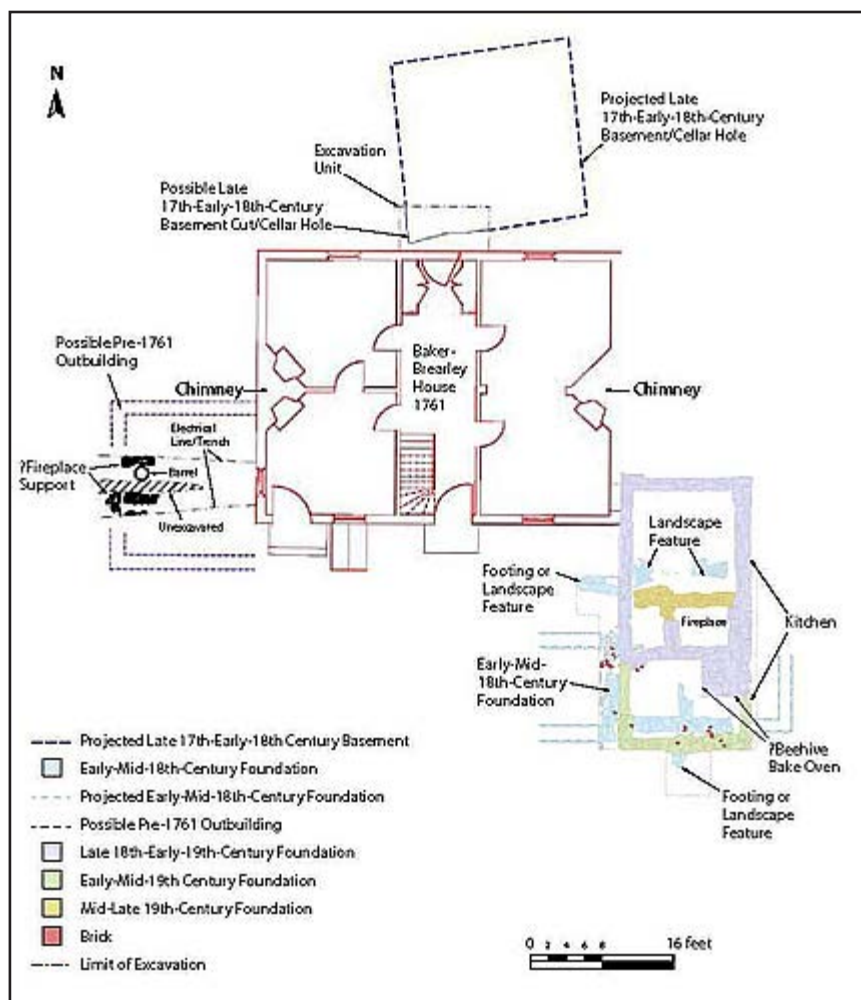
The final report on 1998-2005 archaeological research in and around the 1761 Brearley House was completed in November 2016. The house is one of the most northerly examples of the distinctive group of patterned brick Georgian and pre-Georgian vernacular houses characteristic of the area of the Quaker settlement of West Jersey from Salem northward to the Falls of the Delaware at Trenton. The property is owned by the Township of Lawrence and operated by the Lawrenceville Historical Society as an interpreted historic site.

The project is notable for the discovery of a sequence of three houses from c. 1700 to 1761, and for the implementation of an extensive seven-year educational enrichment program for local 8th Grade students.

Several significant discoveries were made around the 1761 house as part of archaeological identification, evaluation and documentation during the restoration of the standing structure. First among these was the identification of a previously unknown infilled cellar or basement, estimated to be 20 feet square. This lies close to the north wall of the standing house. Limited excavation suggested that the feature had been abandoned early in the 18th century, a conclusion chiefly based on the recovery of a complete English clay tobacco pipe bowl of c.1700 within the fill. It is tentatively concluded that this feature formed part of the primary house on the property, perhaps built by John Brearley I shortly before 1700.

Excavations on the southeast side of the 1761 house confirmed that a one and a half story framed kitchen wing, on a stone foundation, had been added to the house in the late 18th or early 19th century, and accessed through a new doorway opened through the southern end of the east gable wall. The primary portion of the kitchen was 15 by 20 feet and was equipped with a large cooking fireplace and bake oven. A 10 foot-long addition, probably a single story lean-to, was subsequently built at the southern end. An oral account





indicates that the kitchen wing was torn down in the 1920's.

Partially incorporated into the kitchen structure were the fragments of an earlier stone foundation. This was associated with areas of cobbling and patches of occupation soil. The latter yielded a British farthing coin of 1735, suggesting that the building dates to the first half of the 18th century. A very tentative reconstruction posits this as a two-section house, perhaps 40 feet long and 12 feet wide, on the same alignment as the 1761 house and about 12 feet to the south of it. It is possible that these remains are those of the "Mansion House" which was on the property by 1722.

The historic artifact assemblage of over 7700 artifacts was heavily dominated by ceramics and glass vessel fragments. Most of the diagnostic material dates to after c. 1760, but an unknown percentage of the c.1000 red earthenware ceramics may be earlier than this, and relate to the first generation Brearley occupation of the site.

Following the completion of the compliance archaeology associated with the restoration, an educational enrichment program for the 8th Grade of the Lawrence Public Schools, funded by the Lawrence Education Foundation, took place from 1999 to 2005. About 1800 students participated in the project over this time period. The primary focus of the program was on the archaeological survey of the grass meadow surrounding the house. This identified a dense, multi-period prehistoric site a short distance south of the house.

The report is on file at the repositories listed below and at the Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville Branch. A downloadable copy will also be available on the Lawrence Historical Society website, and copies are available on request from burrowintohistory@gmail.com. (See Note.)

Note: BurrowIntoHistory LLC, 2016. *Three Houses and Three Thousand Years: Archaeological Research at the Brearley House [28Me297], Lawrence Township, Mercer County, New Jersey, 1998-2005*. Prepared for:

Township of Lawrence; Historic Preservation Office, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; The New Jersey Historic Trust; Lawrenceville Historical Society; Lawrence Township Board of Education. Project made possible by the New Jersey Historic Trust and the Lawrence Education Foundation. Report completed under Historic Preservation Certified Local Government Grant HE15-003, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, using funds provided by U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service (NPS)

Prepared by:  
Ian Burrow, Ph.D., FSA, RPA,  
BurrowIntoHistory, LLC  
Joshua Butchko, M.A., RPA  
Graphics and Design by Elizabeth Cottrell  
With Assistance from Hunter Research, Inc.

## Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

### St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC), in association with St. Mary's College of Maryland, announces its 2017 field school in historical archaeology. The 2017 field season will be focused on the Calvert House site. Located in Town Center at the heart of the colonial capital, the Calvert House site takes its name from its earliest resident, colonial governor Leonard Calvert, who commissioned its construction soon after the colony was founded in 1634. As a site that during the 17th century served as a home, a fort, a statehouse, and an inn, the Calvert House site offers the opportunity to study many aspects of early colonial life. Excavations in the yards immediately adjacent to the Calvert House will explore the many post-holes, fences, and other cultural features associated with the structure, as well as provide a plethora of artifacts to contribute to the understanding of this critically important site.

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.

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.

Program Dates: May 30 – August 5, 2017. Credits: 8 credits (Anthropology or History).

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 at [www.hsmcdigshistory.org/research/field-school](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/research/field-school).

### St. Leonard

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) located at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is hosting a repeat session of its two-day workshop on May 11-12, 2017. The workshop is focused on artifact identification, collections management strategies and field conservation strategies for archaeologists. The workshop is open to any practicing professionals and graduate students in the field of archaeology. Because of limited space and the desire to



have hands-on activities, each session will be taught to groups of no more than 10, for a maximum of 20 total participants. Cost: \$120 per participant. For more information, contact Patricia Samford at [patricia.samford@maryland.gov](mailto:patricia.samford@maryland.gov) or at 410-586-8551.

### ***Artifact Identification — 2 Sessions***

**Glass:** Mara Kaktins – George Washington’s Ferry Farm - This session will provide participants with the basic skills needed to identify and date colonial and post-colonial bottle glass, with some time spent on table glass. The workshop will include plenty of time for discussion, questions and hands-on experience with the lab’s type collections.

**Projectile Points:** Ed Chaney, Deputy Director, MAC Lab - This session will provide basic identification, a sorting activity, hands-on stone tool making in the park’s reconstructed Native American village and possibly stone/mineral identification.

### ***Collections Management and Conservation – 2 Sessions***

**Collections Management:** Rebecca Morehouse, Curator of State Collections and Sara Rivers Cofield, Curator of Federal Collections – MAC Lab - This session will focus on collection management best practices for cultural resource management archaeologists and museum professionals with archaeological collections.

**Conservation for Archaeologists:** Nichole Doub, Head Conservator, MAC Lab - This session is designed to assist archaeologists as they come across various material types during excavation. We will cover instruction on hands-on with oxygen-free packing techniques. Participants will also be able to x-ray a sample of their personal/institutional collections (the object(s) must fit on an 8x14 inch film), and we will explore the information that is revealed.

## **Ontario**

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

### ***A Single Artifact Provides Possible Ship Identification*** [Submitted by Scarlett Janusas]

Scarlett Janusas Archaeology Inc. recently conducted a marine archaeological survey for an area on Toronto Island at Gibraltar Point prior to the development of erosion control infrastructure. As part of the survey, a land “shoreline” walk was conducted and a single ship’s knee was located. There were no other ship parts

located either on shore or underwater, although it is likely that other ship parts remain buried under the continually shifting sediments of Lake Ontario. Certainly, the magnetometer survey indicated large concentrations of metal offshore and more work is being proposed in the area.

The interesting note regarding the single find of the ship’s knee (Figure 1) is the amount of information ascertainable from just one ship’s element. Along its two lengths, the ship’s knee measured approximately 32.5” by 21.5” (note: inches are used as the imperial system of measurement was used to construct ships). On each of the flat sides there is an iron bolt. There are presumably additional bolt holes in the knee for additional bolt placement. The bolts were driven through the wood, with a head at one end (the outside) and the other “clenched,” that is a washer or flat ring that is placed on that end and the end then hammered over. Small bolts or spikes could be clenched by bending/hammering the sharp end over. But usually what is seen on Great Lake wrecks are the washered end hammered over to achieve a tight fastening.

According to the *Rules Relative To The Construction of Lake Sail and Steam Vessels* (Board of Lake Underwriters 1866), bolts for knees on vessels of 50 – 200 tons would be 5/8” diameter, and 3/4” diameter for vessels of 250-300 tons. Knees were to be “fastened with a bolt every seven inches, the bolts in the arms to be driven through and clenched (Board of Lake Underwriters 1866: 8). “All through-bolts must be driven from the outside and clenched. Locust tree-nails may be substituted for through-bolts, and they must be driven through and wedged” (Board of Lake Underwriters 1866:12).

The Toronto Region and Conservation Authority personnel recovered the knee and transferred it to the City of Toronto, Museums and Heritage Services for permanent curation. This particular knee has metal bolts. As to the type of wood used for the construction of the knees, these were usually made of white oak or tamarack. The 1876 version of the *Rules* (International Board of Lake Underwriters 1876: 44) states that all wooden knees were to be of roots or limbs [it is likely that the traditional crook of a tree limb may have been in limited supply by 1876], or “of machine-bent manufacture [suggesting steamed wood]. This knee appears to have been constructed from the crook of a natural tree, and is probably constructed of white oak. The 1876 Rules further states that diameter of knee bolts for

different ship tonnage: for ships of 100 tons had knee bolts measuring 5/8" diameter; 175 tons – 3/4" diameter; 275 tons – 3/4" diameter; and 400 tons – 7/8" diameter. The diameter of the knee bolts from the recovered knee is 0.8", with a head diameter of 1.2". This fits with a ship of about 350 tons. It should be noted that the *Rules* pertain to both American and Canadian ships. The long side of the knee is the vertical outside face. There is no information in either the 1866 or 1876 Rules with regards to the thickness of the knee, but the overall size of the piece, definitely defines it as a hanging knee. The configuration of the knee and the bolt size suggest that it comes from a vessel of substantial size, possibly upwards of 130' in length.

The only vessel with recorded lengths in the marine background research with similar dimensions is the *Jane Ann Marsh* of 1868. Her tonnage of 257 could meet the criteria of the bolt size, however, it is possible (albeit a slim possibility) that another ship of similar dimensions was also wrecked in this area and not re-

ported. The relationship between tonnage and bolt size is supported by tables in Desmond's (1919: 21) book on wooden ship building.

### References

- Board of Lake Underwriters  
1864 *Register of the Ships of the Lakes and River St. Lawrence*, 1864. Buffalo, NY.  
1866 *Rules Relative to the Construction of Lake Sail And Steam Vessels*. Buffalo, NY.
- Desmond, Charles  
1919 *Wooden Ship-Building*. Rudder Publishing Co., New York. Reprint Edition, The Vestal Press, 1984, New York.

- International Board of Lake Underwriters  
1876 *Rules Relative to the Construction of Lake Sail And Steam Vessels*. Buffalo, NY.



Figure 1.  
*In-situ ship's knee  
as found on  
shoreline.*



## Call for Papers

CNEHA's 2017 annual meeting will be held at the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel and Conference Center in historic Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on November 10-12, 2017. The theme for this year, "Taverns, Transportation and Trade," is in keeping with Portsmouth's nearly 400-year-old role as the center of commerce, travel and industry in the Piscataqua region. Individual papers, sessions and posters on this theme, and on others related to historical archaeology of the Northeast are welcome.

Abstracts should be no more than 150 words and clearly describe the purpose of the research, the significance of the work and summary of the results. Papers are limited to 20 minutes. All abstracts must be submitted by July 15, 2017. All lead authors(s) presenter(s) must be a current member of CNEHA and register for the conference when presenting their abstract. Please submit appropriate conference registration fee with your abstract. Students should include a copy of their student ID.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper/Poster Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your presentation part of an organized session? If so, enter the name(s) of the organizer(s) and contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check if you wish to participate in the **student paper competition**.

☐ Check if you wish to participate in the **poster competition on metal detecting** (not limited to students).

Pre-registration (All costs are US\$):

Members: \$60                  Students \$35 (please include proof of student status)

Please send your session, paper, or poster abstract as an e-mail attachment to Leith Smith and Emerson Baker, program co-chairs, at [leith.smith@maine.gov](mailto:leith.smith@maine.gov). Additional conference information regarding the venue, banquet, tours, book room, etc. will be available on the CNEHA website ([www.cneha.org](http://www.cneha.org)) by early April.

Abstracts will not be accepted without payment. All checks should be made payable to CNEHA 2017, and mailed along with a hard copy of this registration form to Ellen Marlatt, IAC, LLC, 801 Islington Street, Suite 31, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Contact conference chair Ellen Marlatt at [atemarlatt@iac-llc.net](mailto:atemarlatt@iac-llc.net) with any questions.

## **First CNEHA Public Education Poster Session & Competition:**

### **Metal Detecting**

Submitted by Christina Hodges

CNEHA's Subcommittee on Collaborative Preservation announces our first Public Education Poster Session and Competition! The inaugural theme is METAL DETECTING. Use your words and pictures to combat common myths about archaeology and metal detecting and get everyone excited about methods of ethical discovery! Session participants will explain their poster's message, design, audience, etc. The CNEHA board will choose winning poster(s) with a "fan favorite" selected via poll and announced at the Business Meeting (prize TBA + digital distribution to members). Group submissions welcome. Your poster should have a single message: think catchy and effective, not didactic. In tone, aim to educate, but not alienate, metal detectorists and the public.

Submit poster proposals by responding to the regular CNEHA 2017 Call for Papers, checking the box indicating that your poster is for the competition. Presenters will print and bring their posters and will receive more details after proposals are accepted. Students are encouraged to submit, although posters are not eligible for the student paper competition.



# **Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology**

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Candidates for the CNEHA Executive Board must be members in good standing and hold a membership (individual, student, joint, fellow, or life) in the organization. Candidates must be willing to participate in the activities of the Executive Board. These activities may include organizing and staffing annual meetings, working on membership drives, assisting in outreach and publicity for CNEHA, managing CNEHA finances, and carrying out the orders and resolutions of the Council and the Executive Board. Board members must commit to attend at least one of the two regular Board meetings, but are expected to attend both and to participate in all board activities. One Board meeting is held at the annual conference in the fall and a second is held mid-year, typically scheduled for March or April in New York City.

The term for the new Executive Board members will run from October 2017 through October 2020. There are five positions available.

The Nominations Committee requests that the nominations be submitted by June 30, 2017. Self-nominations are welcome. To nominate someone or yourself for the CNEHA Executive Board, please complete this form and return it to:

**Patricia Samford**

[patricia.samford@maryland.gov](mailto:patricia.samford@maryland.gov)

*or*

Patricia Samford  
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory  
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
10515 Mackall Road  
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**City**

**State/Province**

**Country**

**Postal Code**

E-mail where the nominee can be reached after June 30, 2017:\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your email:\_\_\_\_\_

**COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY  
BALLOT DATA FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Present Position Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>Education (graduate only):</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Year</b>
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\_\_\_\_\_

**Professional Memberships (including student organizations (please include any offices or positions held):**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Selected Publications (please limit to four):**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**E-mail where you can be reached after September 15, 2017:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Please write a brief statement, based upon your experience and other pertinent information, concerning what you think you can contribute to CNEHA should you be elected (please limit to 150 words). Please return this form to Patricia Samford by July 27, 2017**

[patricia.samford@maryland.gov](mailto:patricia.samford@maryland.gov)

***or at***

Patricia Samford  
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory  
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
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