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COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (CNEHA)

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

CNEHA Facebook Page

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

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>

UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: Maria O'Donovan

The last several months have been a busy time as I have taken over the editorship. It does not seem possible that it is almost time for my first issue. This will be Volume 46 and will feature articles on ceramics, particularly Domestic or Philadelphia Queensware. Volume 46 will be in your mailboxes by the end of this year and it will be time to start working on the next volume. We are always looking for quality contributions so please considering submitting to our journal.

Northeast Historical Archaeology has a new web presence at Binghamton University that provides information on submissions and ordering. Our new on-line ordering system has been somewhat delayed by the bureaucratic process but I hope to have it up and running by early winter. Until then, you can inquire about ordering directly to me at neha@binghamton.edu or go to our new web pages at <https://www.binghamton.edu/paf/neha.html>.

The *Telling Time* poster series is a valuable source of information for any lab. The eight posters cover chronology in the 17th through the 20th centuries, cemeteries, lighting, and the American Revolution. They can be purchased for \$10.00 each plus shipping. Hard copy back issues of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* can also be ordered for \$10.00-\$13.00 each plus shipping.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

Please send news for the March issue of the CNEHA Newsletter by January 31 to the appropriate provincial or state editor. I still have nostalgia for a hard-copy newsletter, but I guess it's time to admit that I haven't received a single complaint about our changeover to an electronic format!

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Job Posting
Industrial Historian

PAL, New England's leading cultural resource management (CRM) firm, is seeking an experienced Industrial Historian to join our team of CRM professionals. PAL offers a wide variety of services, including all phases of archaeological and historic architectural survey, Section 106 consultation, National Register nominations, HABS/HAER and state level documentation, historic preservation tax credit certifications, historic preservation planning, and interpretive materials. Our office is located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, "The Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution," in the heart of a service area that extends throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic regions. As a consequence, a large percentage of our projects require the talents of qualified Industrial Historians and Industrial Archaeologists with experience in identifying, recording, and evaluating the various types of historic industrial resources we often encounter. Typical resource types include historic mill and factory complexes, railroads, highway bridges, dams, and electrical generating plants. Due to PAL's reputation in our region, the Industrial Historian will work on challenging, high-profile projects that offer unique opportunities for career fulfillment.

The Industrial Historian coordinates the technical and logistical aspects of research, fieldwork, data collection and analysis, and synthesis of data within project specific research designs and frameworks. Project responsibilities range from conducting archival research, photo-documentation, and survey mapping/recordation to the development and execution of site and building evaluations. The Industrial Historian conducts industrial structure, landscape, and artifact analyses, writes technical reports, and coordinates report preparation, delivering a variety of finished, professional work products with appropriate content and technical detail on time and within budget. Assigned projects primarily consist of locations with documented industrial resources (standing structures, archaeological sites, ruins, and landscapes) in a variety of urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Requirements:

- A graduate degree in history, architectural history, industrial history, or public history and at least four years of professional work experience that demonstrates a strong background in historic industrial resources.
- Knowledge and understanding of the laws and regulations relating to cultural resource management (CRM).
- Excellent organization, writing, and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrated experience in the evaluation of industrial resources in accordance with National Register of Historic Places criteria, the completion of state inventory forms (historic buildings, structures, objects, sites), National Register nominations, HABS/HAER and state-level documentation, and the preparation of cultural resource management reports.
- Availability to travel for day and overnight trips, and occasional longer trips throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

PAL offers competitive pay, a comprehensive benefits package, and a casual work environment that suits and rewards motivated self-starters who are willing to work hard, communicate effectively, and make a strong contribution to a professional team. Qualified applicants should send a resume, references, and a writing sample to Donna Callahan, Human Resources Director at dcallahan@palinc.com.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Connecticut

Reported by: Cece Saunders

17th Century Sites in Connecticut

[Submitted by Brian Jones, Connecticut State Archaeologist]

This summer, the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology (OSA) conducted public outreach excavations at two 17th Century house sites: the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead in Windsor and the Lt. John Hollister site in Glastonbury. Both excavations reflect the office's ongoing effort to document early English settlement in the Connecticut River Valley. In coordination with the DAR who owns and manages the Ellsworth National Historic Landmark Site, OSA conducted its Archaeology Field School for Educators, followed by an open house week where the public was encouraged to drop by and help with the excavation. Work at the site focused on two areas of 17th Century occupation identified in 1990 by Robert Gradie. The Ellsworth site was first owned by one of Windsor's most important early settlers, Francis Stiles. Stiles may have unloaded his vessel here as early as 1635 to prepare the property and construct houses for the "Lords and Gentlemen" who claimed rights to the land. The property was subdivided in 1640 and the north half occupied by the Gaylord family. The Ellsworths first occupied the Stiles parcel in 1665.

Ground penetrating radar was undertaken by Debbie Surabian of Natural Resources Conservation Services of the USDA (NRCS) and two cellar-like features were identified where the Gaylord and Stiles houses were thought to exist. The Gaylord "cellar" unfortunately proved to be disturbance associated with an early 20th Century septic system, but the large (ca. 6x8m) Stiles lot cellar produced period-appropriate ceramics and clay pipe fragments. Excavation along the north wall of the filled cellar established that the original dry-laid foundation had been robbed-out to the bottom course of stone. The archaeology suggests a major episode of demolition at the site sometime before approximately 1740 (since the cellar fill lacked English white salt-glazed stoneware and later ceramic types). The data raise new questions about the construction of the nearby Ellsworth mansion. Early interpretations of the house suggested a ca. 1740 date, matching the recent archaeology, but a later architectural assessment from the 1980s concluded the house was not built until the

early 1780s. Perhaps both interpretations will prove to be true – with an initial construction about 1740 as the Ellsworth family was coming into its prosperity, and a later major renovation and expansion conducted when



Research Request. Cuprous trade token of unknown type and date associated with the Ellsworth cellar: Fleur-de-lys and a cross with triangular terminations. If you recognize this trade token and/or design, please let me know! [email: brian.jones@uconn.edu]

Oliver came into possession of the home in the 1780s.

Our second research-oriented public excavation took place in August at the 17th Century Lt. John Hollister Site in Glastonbury. This year we returned to the site to focus on two research questions raised by prior radar imagery. The first explored a series of large post-like features in the space between the three main cellars of the farmstead. Excavation units were carefully placed to identify the soil anomalies to great effect – nineteen large (ca. 1m diameter) features were identified. It soon became evident that some of these pits contained a central mortared post setting. The spacing of these turned out to be very close to the traditional 16-foot “bent” that tobacco shed sections are still based on. In fact, a GIS overlay of the mortared post remains was a perfect match to a tobacco shed visible on the 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph. It is hoped that examination of the organization of the “non-mortared” features may yet yield data on the 17th Century architectural organization of the site.

The second area examined was identified by University of Denver student Maeve Herrick in her recent Master’s thesis on the ground penetrating radar analysis she and Jasmine Saxon conducted last year. Maeve identified a fifth rectangular cellar feature at the south end of the Hollister site, while three large nearby oval features were interpreted as possible Native American house floors. We examined the contents and stratigraphy of the new cellar and one of the possible wigwam features. Both contained artifacts contemporaneous with the main household to the north. While the possible wigwam did produce a large antler fragment still attached to a portion of the cranium, nothing distinctively Native American was found there. The nearby cellar, however, produced two white wampum beads and a decorative “Crusader and Huntress” pipe (aka “Pikeman and Minerva”). While these are well-documented at the French military outpost at Pentagoet in Penobscot Bay, Maine, they have not yet, to my knowledge, been found in southern New England or New York (though interestingly they do show up at the Catholic settlement of St. Mary’s City in Maryland). The occurrence of this uncommon pipe in Connecticut raises a number of questions. While perhaps an item acquired through black-market trade connections, it is equally possible that this King Philips War-era artifact represents an item picked up during a northern military campaign – but whether by an Englishman or local Wangunk ally remains to be seen.

Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

St. Mary's City

[Submitted by Silas D. Hurry, Curator of Collections and Archaeological Laboratory Director]

As part of the 2017 Field School in Historical Archaeology, Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) staff directed excavations at the Leonard Calvert House Site (18ST1-13). Built for Leonard Calvert, Maryland's first governor, in 1634, the house was a hub of social and governmental functions in early Maryland. The structure was briefly fortified and occupied by Parliamentary soldiers in the mid-1640s, acting as the base of operations for a short-lived rebellion. It later served as the home of the third governor of Maryland, William Stone, and throughout the mid-17th century, it was used regularly as a meeting place for the Maryland Assembly and Provincial courts. Beginning in 1662, when the colony purchased the property, the house was leased to a series of innkeepers who maintained the site as one of the colony's largest ordinaries. After the colonial capital was relocated to Annapolis at the end of the 17th century, the Leonard Calvert House site reverted into agricultural land until 1840, when Dr. John Brome directed the construction of a plantation house and outbuildings on the property, including dwellings to house the family's enslaved laborers.

As a result of this intensive occupational history, ar-

chaeology at the Leonard Calvert House site has yielded a wealth of information about colonial and postcolonial life in Maryland. The site was first intensively excavated by HSMC staff from 1980 to 1984; excavations have continued at the site since 2008 as part of the museum's annual field school program. This summer's work was focused on the eastern and northern perimeter of the Calvert House's brick foundations.

Excavation units placed next to the foundations revealed a complex series of stratigraphic levels, many of which were related to the Brome family's occupation of the site in the 19th century. The latter layers contained various late 19th-century refined earthenwares, along with vessel glass, cut and wire nails, pieces of iron agricultural implements, and thousands of coal fragments. In most areas near the 17th-century foundations, the lower stratigraphic levels included evidence of earthmoving, likely leveling activities associated with the construction of the Brome family's home. Mixed into these layers were numerous 17th- and 18th-century artifacts, including sherds of a variety of ceramic types (e.g., North Devon gravel tempered, Staffordshire slipwares, Rhenish stonewares), green wine bottle glass, faunal remains, and hand-wrought nails. Notable small finds included a bone die, an iron smoker's companion, and a copper-alloy apothecaries' weight. Excavation in this area is ongoing as HSMC staff works to finalize excavation down to subsoil to identify any features related to the 17th-century use of the site.



Figure 1. Selection of ceramics and pipe fragments from one layer of a single 5' x 5' unit excavated near the Leonard Calvert House.

Figure 2.
Field school students working in a layer of 19th-century refuse.



The 2017 field season also targeted a feature in the northern yard of the property that was previously identified as a cockfighting ring or animal baiting pit. The feature consists of a trench arranged roughly in the shape of an oval. The trench measures between 1.25' and 2' across and 1'–1.75' deep; the entire feature is approximately 23'×17'. Based on artifacts recovered from the trench's fill and the plowzone within the feature's proximity, the trench was used sometime in the late 17th century and was a space in the yard where people congregated to drink alcohol and smoke tobacco. Because this period coincides with the site's use as an ordinary, it has been speculated that this unusual feature was associated with animal blood sport, a pastime commonly associated with taverns in the colonial period. During the past summer's field season, one segment of the trench was exposed and excavated. Although the analysis of the finds is ongoing, this work provided another set of data to aid in the understanding of this unique feature.

The summer field school program culminated in the museum's annual Tidewater Archaeology Weekend, a public archaeology event that features hands-on archaeology and behind-the-scenes tours of archaeological sites and facilities. Visitors were invited to work alongside field school students as they screened for artifacts. Students also led tours of the site, displaying the knowledge they gained from their field school experience. Curator of Collections Silas Hurry provided walkthroughs of the museum's new archaeological lab-

oratory and curation facility, and Director of Research Henry Miller led guided tours of the reconstructed Brick Chapel and the St. John's Site Museum. Despite one rainy day, Tidewater Archaeology Weekend was an incredibly popular event and one that was rewarding for students, staff, and visitors alike.

Future work at the Leonard Calvert House will continue to examine features throughout the property. All work at the site will contribute important information to the larger project of reconstructing the 17th-century house, which is currently part of the state's capital budget plan. The reconstructed Leonard Calvert House



Figure 3. *Screening with a visiting family during Tidewater Archaeology Weekend.*



Figure 4. *The 2017 Field School in Historical Archaeology team.*

will provide temperature-controlled exhibit space at the heart of the museum's Town Center interpretive area.

To read more about HSMC's annual field school program, including a history of the field school, testimonials from former participants, and a blog detailing the results of past field seasons, head to the field school website: <http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/research/field-school/>.

Star- or Asterisk-like Designs on Ceramic Tablewares Recovered from Three Sites in St. Mary's City: A Call for Similar Examples

[Submitted by Lauren McMillan (University of Maryland), Julia A. King (St. Mary's College of Maryland), and Patricia Samford (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, J. Patterson Park & Museum)]

Archaeologists from St. Mary's College of Maryland recovered two scratch blue white salt-glaze stoneware saucer fragments from a c. 1750-1815 quarter complex for enslaved households in St. Mary's City (18ST1-270). The quarters were part of the Hicks-Mackall-Brome plantation and were one among many other quarters and quarter compounds found on the farm throughout its occupation. The two stoneware fragments were recovered during Phase I and II investigations.

These two fragments have what appears to be a star-type design scratched into the body of the fragments. These decorations may be part of a floral motif, although comparable designs have not yet been identified in archaeological site reports, online digital archaeological catalogs, collector's guides, or online museum catalogs.

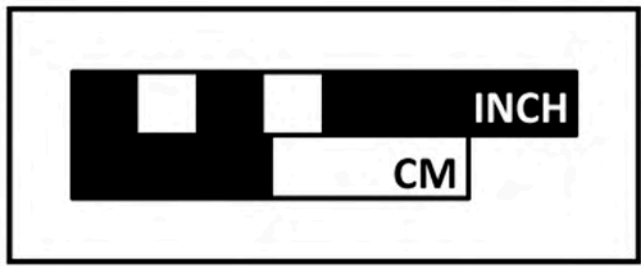
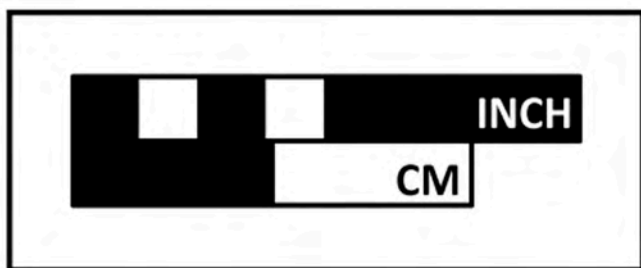
Interestingly, two white salt-glazed stoneware fragments with the same design were found in 1992 by archaeologists from Historic St. Mary's City at two adjacent slave quarters (18ST1-205 and 18ST1-207; Mitchell et al. 1999). All four fragments come from four different saucers, and the saucers do not appear to be from a set. The fragment recovered from one of the quarter sites discovered in 1992 is dipped white salt-glazed, while the other three are white bodied white salt-glazed stoneware, increasing the likelihood that these saucers were sought out based on their decorative patterns and not necessarily bought all at once

The design is strikingly similar to the star motif found on the interior base of a pearlware bowl recovered from the Charles Carroll kitchen in Annapolis (Jones 2000; Leone 2005); the pearlware bowl covered artifacts including 14 rock crystals, a half-dozen white bone disks, a smooth black pebble, two coins, and a number of straight pins.

A tin-glazed earthenware fragment carved into a teardrop shape with a seven-sided asterisk incised into one side was recovered from a late 17th- to mid-18th-century lot in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This carved ceramic piece has been interpreted to be a religious amulet used by enslaved Africans or Afro-Brazilians (Lima 2016).

A similar motif was also observed on a handmade bead recovered from the doorway of a cabin occupied by an African American family in the 1870s in Calvert County, Maryland. This bead, which was associated with an intact hoe blade and other undecorated beads, exhibits purposely-etched radial lines emanating from the center drill hole (Derr 2007).

Katie Derr (2007) has suggested that this star-like de-



sign may be the Adinkra symbol for Anansi, a trickster character originating in Asante folklore. Anansi is a spider figure that can also take the form of a man. In West Africa, Anansi was viewed as a character uniting and strengthening society, one who shape-shifts and interacts with deities without being divine himself. Through misdeeds, Anansi brought communities together: communities resisted his misconduct by working together (Vecsey 1981; Marshall 2007, 2012).

Tales of Anansi spread throughout the Akan people of the Gold Coast, and eventually made their way into Southern and Caribbean folk culture during the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Anansi was particularly important in Jamaican culture starting in the 18th century (Vecsey 1981; Marshall 2007, 2012). In the New World, Anansi's purpose shifted dramatically to resisting and undermining the plantation system through work avoidance, theft, self-emancipation, and sometimes violence.

Could these star- or asterisk-like motifs on the four white salt-glazed pieces be representative of Anansi and his spider web? Documents reveal instances of resistance on this plantation, including self-emancipation,

participating in British raids during the War of 1812, and perhaps in a short-lived but impactful slave rebellion in 1817. Archaeological evidence suggests at least some participation in the consumer economy, a practice Lori Lee (2016) has argued is also a form of resistance.

To learn more about the use and distribution of this symbol and to test the idea that it may have had meaning beyond a mere decoration, Patricia Samford is compiling a database of examples. If you know of similar examples, regardless of context, please email Samford at patricia.samford@maryland.gov.

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St. Leonard

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum announces several new features that have been added to the ceramic identification pages of the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* website. We have added a section entitled "Beginner's Guide to Historic Ceramic Identification" that will allow users to assess ceramic paste, glazes/surface treatments and decoration in a systematic fashion using a layered, clickable menu. The site also includes a flow chart of ceramics and their characteristics as a visual aid. The guide and the flow chart are available at

the links below:

<http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/BeginnersGuideTo-HistoricCeramicIdentification.html>

<http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/CeramicOrganization-File.pdf>

We are also pleased to announce that Joe Bagley, City Archaeologist of Boston, has allowed JPPM to post a pdf file of a visual guide of historic ceramics he created, ideal for printing and using in the lab or field as a quick visual reference.

<http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/HistoricCeramic-TypesChart.pdf>

Upcoming future additions to the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website will include North American stoneware and table glass, so stay tuned.

Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory is pleased to accept applications for its sixth year of the Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. The MAC Lab is an archaeological research, conservation, and curation facility located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, the State Museum of Archaeology, in southern Maryland. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archaeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted by State and Federal agencies and other researchers throughout Maryland and is currently home to 8.5 million artifacts representing over 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland. All of these collections are available for research, education, and exhibit purposes to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators and the purpose of the fellowship is to encourage research in the collections.

Eligibility: Students, academics, or professionals (employees of the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's College of Maryland are not eligible); any subject in Maryland archaeology; must use collections at the MAC Lab; must be in residence full time in the MAC Lab; must provide a presentation of research to museum staff members at the end of the fellowship.

Application process: A 1000-word proposal (no more than 4 typed pages, double-spaced) outlining the problem and the collections in the MAC Lab to be used, plus a CV, plus a letter of recommendation. Applicants

are strongly encouraged to contact the lab during proposal preparation to ensure that the lab has collections appropriate for contributing to the proposed research. Applicants may also wish to look at the Maryland Unearthed website, which provides access to many of the important archaeological collections maintained by the lab: <http://jefpat.org/mdunearth/index.aspx>

Stipend: Stipend to be \$700 a week, with a minimum two-week stay and maximum five-week stay. Stipend to be paid upon completion of fellowship for stay of two weeks; a fellowship of greater length will be paid in two installments: 50% at the midway point of the fellowship and 50% upon completion of fellowship. On-site housing may be available for fellows, dependent on scheduling of fellowship.

Gloria Shafer was born on January 6, 1931 in Baltimore, Maryland. She spent summers as a child on her family's farm near Chestertown, Maryland, and attended Washington College. In 1955, she and her husband, George M. King, started a small excavating construction business in Anne Arundel County. She had a lifelong interest in Maryland history and archaeology and contributed funds and services to individuals and organizations supporting this interest. Mrs. King died on May 31, 2004 and this fellowship in her memory recognizes her many contributions to the preservation of the past.

Applications must be received at the address below by March 1st, 2018. Projects awarded a fellowship can begin as early as April 1st.

Please direct any questions to Patricia Samford at patricia.samford@maryland.gov and send application materials to:

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

Virginia

Reported by: David Brown

James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc.
Archaeological Investigations at St. John's Church (44HE1189), City of Richmond, Virginia

In October 2016 (during the week of Halloween, no less), JRIA archaeologists excavated the partial remains of an unidentified young adult male in a grave under the historic St. John's Church in the City of Richmond. St. John's Church Foundation had contracted with

JRIA to monitor excavation work associated with the replacement of the underpinning along the north wall of the ca. 1829 wing of the church (Figure 1). In the course of monitoring, JRIA archaeologists identified three unmarked human burials and a possible fourth; three small post molds which likely represented the remains of wooden grave markers; and a scaffold hole probably associated with the reconstruction of the bell tower in either 1866 or 1905 (Figure 2).

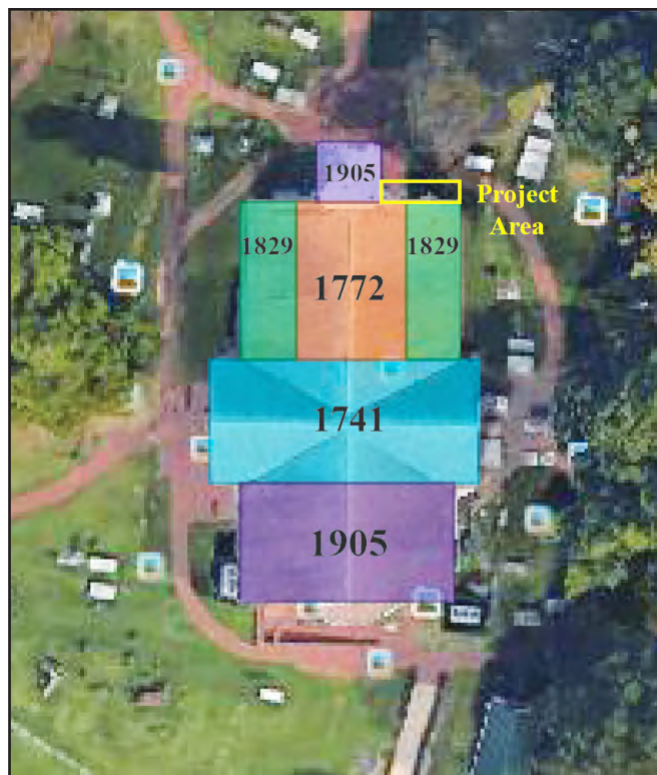


Figure 1. Location of the project area in relation to St. John's Church and the ca. 1829 wing.



Figure 2. View of the project area to the west.



Figure 3. *Truncated skeletal remains prior to removal, view to the north.*

One of the burials could not be avoided by construction, so JRIA excavated the human remains under a permit issued by the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). The rounded rectangular grave shaft was approximately 4 feet deep and contained the partial skeletal remains of a white male approximately 23 to 25 years of age, according to the analysis subsequently conducted by Dr. Douglas Owsley and his colleagues in the Department of Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Figure 3). The burial had been severely truncated by a 1960s foundation all the way down to the skeleton, of which two bones were mortared into the foundation wall. Evidence from the excavated portion of the grave shaft suggests that the individual was buried in a flat-lidded, hexagonal coffin constructed with at least some machine-cut, machine-headed nails, which provide a terminus post quem for the burial of 1805. The individual apparently was buried in typical English grave clothes of a shirt, sheet, and cap with a jaw strap pinned to these clothes by a series of copper alloy straight pins, several of which were recovered from the burial with more suggested by copper staining on the jaw bone. At the time of his burial, this man was wearing some form of copper alloy chain-link necklace of which one complete and one partial chain link were recovered, while others were suggested by copper staining around

the bones of the upper collarbone, shoulder blades and neck.

Based on the coffin nails and the documented date of construction (verified by dendrochronology) of the extension under which the burial was located, the individual likely was interred between 1805 and 1829. Given the incomplete nature of the parish burial records, however, it is impossible to identify him with any certainty. The use of traditional English grave clothes, as well as a flat-lidded hexagonal coffin, conforms to a standard burial practice developed throughout the seventeenth century and in widespread use during the eighteenth century. The lack of evidence for clothing hardware, such as buttons, is interesting given the trend towards burial in the individual's own clothes which emerged during the eighteenth century. Many of the notable changes in burial practices of the nineteenth century, including mass-produced coffin hardware, also appear to be absent in this burial. Overall, the characteristics of this early nineteenth-century burial are typical of much earlier burial practices.

It is likely that this young man was an individual of some status. Burial with jewelry, or any other form of grave good, is rare in English and early American burials, and chain links, in particular, were costly. The skeletal remains themselves also paint the picture of a wealthy individual. His extensive dental caries indicate a diet high in sugar, a luxury item available predominantly to the wealthy. Meanwhile, the Schmorl's nodes evident on the vertebrae, without corresponding evidence of heavy lifting in the long bones, may be attributable to extended horseback riding rather than physical labor.

As a result of this project, JRIA inventoried the archaeological component of the St. John's Church lot as Site 44HE1189. Significantly, JRIA also recovered a modest but varied assemblage of prehistoric Native American artifacts (primarily Middle Archaic) that suggests why this area was known historically as "Indian Town Hill."

JRIA would like to thank St. John's Church Foundation Executive Director Sarah Whiting and Amy Swartz, Director of Programs and Preservation, for their support throughout the project. And is grateful, as always, to Joanna Wilson Green of the DHR for her timely and thoughtful assistance coordinating the burial permit.

The detailed results of the project are available in

JRIA's report, which has been submitted to the DHR: Allison M. Connor, E. Randolph Turner, III, Matthew R. Laird, and Sean Romo, *Archaeological Mitigation of Improvements to the 1829 Wing at St. John's Church, Richmond, Virginia*. James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc., Williamsburg, Virginia (February 2017).

Testing the Trees of Poplar Forest

[Submitted by Dr. Eric Proebsting, Department of Archaeology and Landscapes, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest]

For the past three years, Poplar Forest has partnered with Rider University to explore the environmental history of the property using dendrochronology. This effort has taken place as part of the research surrounding a 2.2 mile Parkway, which will cross five of the property's Jefferson-era fields as it makes its way across portions of the historic plantation. This collaborative research has taken place under the direction of Drs. Daniel Druckenbrod and Eric Proebsting, and has included contributions by undergraduate students from Rider University and Lynchburg College.

To date, over 100 samples have been studied, including 76 cores taken from standing trees, 28 sections taken from historic building timbers, and 2 slices saved from historic tulip poplars that were removed from the property over the past decades. An initial summary of this work was presented as a co-authored paper at last year's annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology (Proebsting and Druckenbrod 2016). This includes evidence related to past episodes of forest succession and climatic events, which both effected and were affected by those who have lived and labored at Poplar Forest over the past 250 years.

More recently, six cores were taken from the iconic tulip poplar trees located in front of Jefferson's retreat house (Figure 1). This includes five trees that stand on the north lawn of the house within Jefferson's ornamental grounds. In addition, a small grove of historic tulip poplar trees was tested, which is located roughly 400ft northeast of the main house. Dating these historic trees was difficult, due to the fact that tulip poplars often become hollow at the center due to natural processes of wind and water-related damage over time. Nevertheless, results strongly suggest that these trees were saplings when the retreat was being built in the early 1800s, with the longest tree-ring record extending back as early as 1806 (Figure 2) (Druckenbrod 2017:5). This is significant, given that work began on the retreat



Figure 1. Dr. Daniel Druckenbrod sampling one of the historic tulip poplar trees located in the front lawn of Jefferson's retreat house, May 2016.



Figure 2. Close-up of a sample taken from the North Grove at Poplar Forest, which dendrochronology has revealed was established as early as 1806.

house in this same year, suggesting that these trees could have been planted, or purposely selected for the ornamental grounds from the regrowth that may have occurred across this former agricultural field.

Future research will continue to build on these efforts to develop a detailed environmental history of the property. Efforts are currently underway to research and digitize historic land records, which includes using ArcGIS to build a spatial database of witness trees recorded on colonial land patents available for Poplar Forest and surrounding plantations. Additional trees will also be sampled and studied as construction begins on the Parkway in the months to come. This will include efforts to strengthen existing tree-ring chronol-

ogies for specific species, and continue to extend these chronologies back to the early 18th-century. Together this will allow us to gain a deeper understanding of the ecological dynamics that were present within the native forest and how these dynamics changed over the decades following colonial settlement.

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Proebsting, Eric and Daniel Druckenbrod.

2016 *Seeing the Past through the Soil and Trees of Poplar Forest*. Paper presented in Environmental Archaeology and Historical Ecology: Present and Future Directions, Eric Proebsting and Ashley Peles, symposium organizers, to the Society for Historical Archaeology, Washington, D.C.

Update – Archaeology in Fairfax County

The past several months have seen some changes in nomenclature for Fairfax County archaeologists. The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch has been re-designated the Archaeology and Collections Branch (ACB). Similarly, as we continue to conduct investigations outside of the Old Colchester Park and Preserve, it seemed only fitting to substitute the word, “County” in place of “Colchester” for the Archaeological Research Team; but, it remains CART for short.

Patriot Park North (Lincoln Lewis Vannoy Site)

Among the active projects in the county, we continue working at Patriot Park North, in the greater Centreville area. The Park Authority plans to develop the park into a youth baseball complex. During the multi-disciplinary team walkover, the ACB representative noted that twentieth century siding on a (barely) standing farmhouse structure obscured a much earlier log core. Following Fairfax County Park policy, CART conducted a Phase I identification survey of the proposed development area. Unsurprisingly, a concentration of artifacts dating from the early- to mid-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century artifacts occurred in direct association with the standing, log-cored structure.

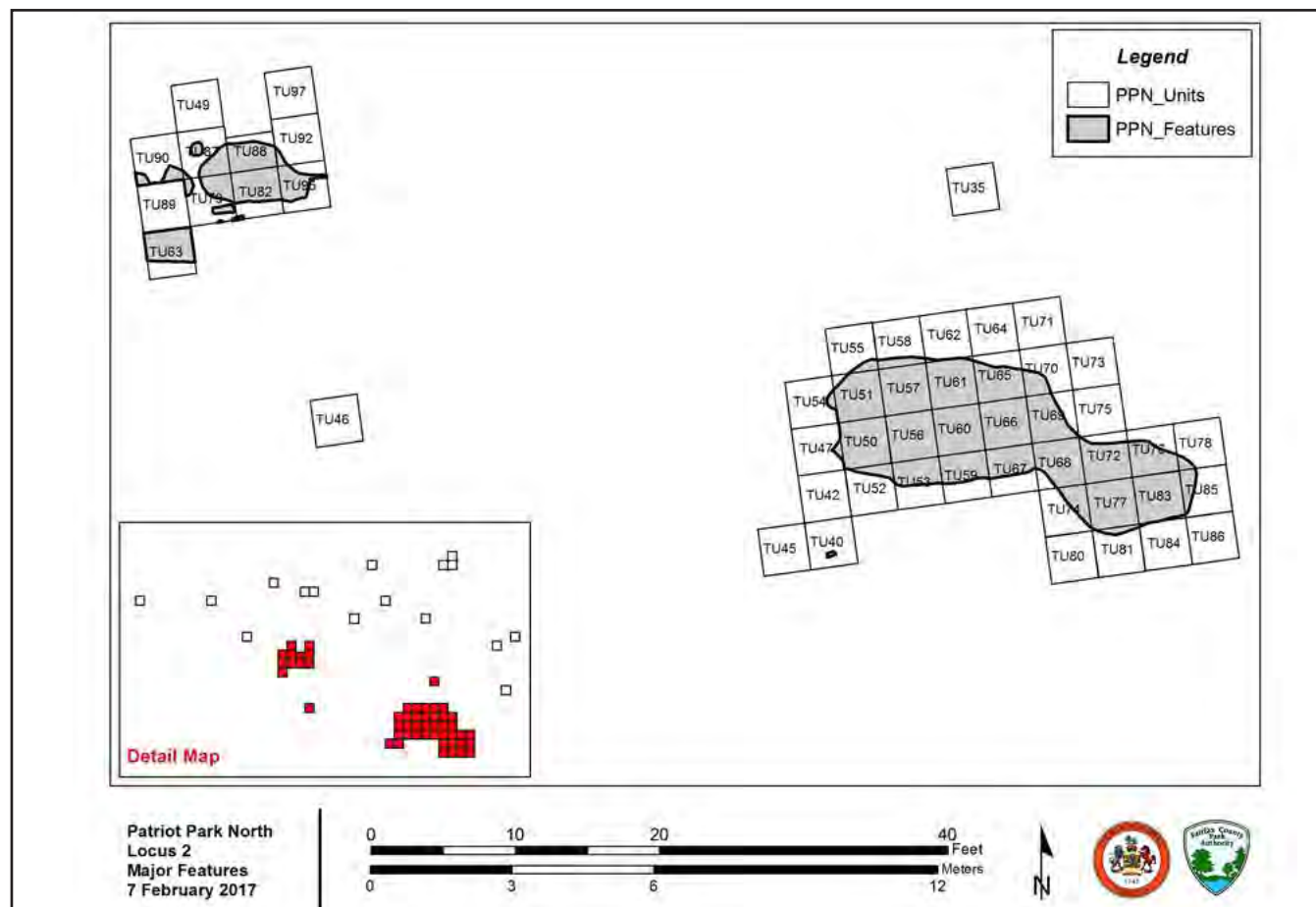




Figure 1. View of log construction under/behind more recent modifications – Locus 1. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Outbuilding Analysis.

However, the archaeologists also identified a concentration of earlier, late-eighteenth through early-nineteenth century, materials approximately 100 meters from the later period locus.

CART undertook a Phase II-level archaeological evaluation of the site, concentrating within the two loci of activity identified during the initial survey. This investigation consisted of the excavation of 1 m x 1m test units. Within Locus 1, the area associated with the extant log-cored structure, only a limited number of units were excavated. Given the very deteriorated state of the structure, no excavations occurred within the building footprint. Exterior units yielded additional early-nineteenth through twentieth century artifacts, but no cultural features. At some point in the future, when the structure has been adequately stabilized, additional excavations will be conducted within the structural footprint. We anticipate a greater likelihood of encountering cultural features in these interior units.

At Locus 2, the concentration of earlier artifacts, early test units exposed a soil stain angled at roughly 90 degrees. Excavation of a block of thirty-seven test units revealed two seemingly conjoined, roughly rectangular stains. These features have been interpreted as cellar or subfloor pits. Two other excavation blocks, as well as individual units, have been excavated within Locus 2 exposing more features including another subfloor pit. Artifacts recovered from Locus 2 consisted almost entirely of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century materials such as white salt-glazed stoneware, Stafford-

shire slipware, English brown stoneware, Colonoware, creamware, and pearlware. The recovery of Colonoware, as well as a small number of glass beads, and the identification of subfloor pits, increases the possibility that Locus 2 represents a slave and/or servant's quarter that predates the log-cored structure at Locus 1.

We continue to expose features at Locus 2 in the anticipation of additional investigation. These investigations will strive to better understand the temporal and cultural context of the occupation at this location. Similarly, when the structure at Locus 1 has been dismantled or otherwise stabilized, we intend to excavate within the structural footprint. It is believed that intact features may exist that speak to the original period of construction as well as its first inhabitants.

Ontario

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

Wilfrid Laurier University Archaeology at Old Fort Erie, National Historic Site

[Submitted by John R. Triggs]

2017 marked the fourth season of excavation at Old Fort Erie with 21 Wilfrid Laurier University students and three student supervisors under the direction of Dr. John Triggs (Figure 1), Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Waterloo. Conducted in partnership with The Niagara Parks Commission, the six-week long field school is mandatory for majors in the Archaeology and Heritage Studies program. The course is designed to provide students with the many skills employed in modern archaeological investigations such as stratigraphic excavation technique, recording, survey, and remote sensing. In



Figure 1. Left to right, John Triggs with students Jesse Hume, Antiy-Demian Savov, and Colleen Tambllyn.

addition to the standard field training, students also are versed in aspects of public archaeology and community engagement. This summer the dig was promoted in a variety of ways: a public lecture, local print media, a Niagara Parks Commission Facebook page, a Laurier blog site, a coast-to-coast Canada 150 podcast, and a full-length feature on Wilfrid Laurier's website. Since 2012, the research-driven archaeology project has sought to address questions based on an evaluation of various historical sources and archaeological data.

Fort Erie, and the community that grew up around the fort, was first settled in 1764 in the aftermath of what is sometimes referred to as the French and Indian War, a conflict that signaled the end of the French regime in North America. The small frontier settlement at Fort Erie is significant as the first permanent British military fort in the province, occupied for about 40 years until 1805, when the "new" Fort Erie was constructed. The second fort was subjected to a 6-week-long siege in the summer of 1814 when the British army, militia, and First Nations allies, attempted to dislodge the occupying American forces. This landscape of conflict is sometimes described as Canada's bloodiest battlefield

because of the unprecedented loss of life during the relatively short engagement.

The 2017 excavation continued the investigation of three structures dating to the last decades of the 18th century, first revealed in 2015: a blacksmith shop and two officer's dwellings. Although only a few centimeters below the surface, features such as a masonry double-fireplace, floorboards, wall trenches, a masonry forge, fence-lines, and various posts and pits indicated early in the excavation that the buried archaeological remains were intact and largely undisturbed. The vast number of artifacts found during the 2015 excavations - more than 75,000 - included 18th and early 19th century ceramics useful for dating archaeological deposits, food bone, container glass, smoking pipes, architectural debris such as window glass and hand-wrought nails, various pieces of hardware, personal items such as buttons and buckles, musket balls and flints, and other military paraphernalia.

Finds such as these provide direct evidence of past activities from which further insight can be gained about the people attached to this early Ontario fort. The



Figure 2. Brooke Harrison and Graham Costain with the blacksmith shop corner walls and forge foundation in foreground.

first Fort Erie was a frontier community that included military and naval personnel (officers and enlisted men), together with civilians and First Nations people. The material culture of these inhabitants is a primary source of information for this period - every much as valuable as historical documents. The immediate goal of the 2017 project was to further investigate the buildings discovered in 2015 to determine the size, and interior layout of each structure. All indications are that this was a mission accomplished as attested by the quantity and variety of material culture recovered, and the features documented during the spring excavation (Figure 2).

The long-term research objectives of the project are to investigate the diverse Fort Erie community by addressing how the inhabitants adapted to frontier conditions through material culture, diet, and architecture. Adaptation is also viewed within the context of the many social, political, and economic negotiations that defined daily life and survival in this isolated post on the fringe of the British empire. Further work is planned for the spring of 2019 when an attempt will be made to locate the original fort itself using remote sensing techniques, followed by investigative excavation.

Atlantic Canada

Reported by: Amanda J. Crompton

Low-Elevation Aerial Survey of Historic Fisheries Sites on the island of Newfoundland

[Submitted by Amanda Crompton (Saint Mary's University, Dept. of Anthropology; ajcrompton@mun.ca) and Marc Bolli (Memorial University, CREAT Network; mbolli@mun.ca)]

Our project uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to collect low-elevation aerial data to detect historic archaeological sites in the coastal regions of the island of Newfoundland, Canada. This year, we have focused on French fisheries sites that dot the shorelines and beaches of Newfoundland. Beginning in the early sixteenth century, French fishing ships would cross the ocean to spend the summer fishing for cod in Newfoundland. Operating from shore stations, crews would catch, process, and dry cod throughout the summer. At the end of the fishing season, the dry-cured fish was transported back to European markets.

Fishermen built structures for processing large numbers of codfish, such as stages (waterside structures where codfish were landed and initially processed), as well as

cabins and cookrooms for the crew. Crews also built, augmented and shaped galets (cobblestone beaches), and built raised wooden platforms (called flakes). Cod were laid out on flakes and galets to dry over the summer season (Figure 1). At the end of the summer, crews abandoned their fishing stations and returned to European markets with their catch. The most popular harbours were revisited year after year by French fishing crews from the early sixteenth century until the early twentieth century; by building and rebuilding these shore stations annually, fishing crews shaped the landscape in identifiable and regularly-patterned ways (Tapper 2014).

Thanks to exhaustive fieldwork conducted by the late Peter Pope (e.g. Pope 2009), as well as a detailed historic landscape analysis by Bryn Tapper (Tapper 2014; Tapper and Pope 2014), many of these French fishing sites are well known and well documented. Our project is designed to build on their work, and to document these landscapes in an expedient and efficient way using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) flights. By using the UAV platform to obtain low-elevation, high-resolution data, we hope to systematically document and characterize the landscapes of these seasonally occupied archaeological sites in an expedient and non-invasive fashion.

In 2017, we used Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to gather low-elevation imagery of a known French fishing site in Crémaillère Harbour (Observation Point, EiA-07; see Figure 2), likely used between the 18th-19th century (Tapper 2014). We equipped our UAV with both a visible light camera and a Near-Infrared (NIR) camera, and flew a series of overlapping transects across the site, with cameras automatically recording an image once every two seconds.

Through the winter, we will be post-processing our low-elevation photographs, with several research goals in mind. We use the visible light photographs to generate high-resolution orthomosaics of the modern ground surface, and we will then work to correlate the subtle changes in site topography with archaeological and historical site location data (see Figure 3 for the initial results from a single UAV flight). By gathering low-elevation imagery, we hope to demonstrate the utility of UAVs to document and characterize ephemeral archaeological sites from their appearance on the modern ground surface today, in a non-invasive fashion.

Research from this region (and elsewhere) suggests

Figure 1: A photograph taken by Paul-Émile Miot between 1857-1859, showing the layout of a typical French fishing station (not Crémaillère harbour, which Miot did not photograph, but rather the harbour of Pacquet, as attributed in Tapper 2014:Fig.16). Note the stages constructed at the waterside, and the rectangular platforms used for drying codfish behind them. Library and Archives Canada, PA-202297, MIKAN number 3574465.



that archaeological sites leave identifiable traces in the modern vegetation that grows overtop of sites. This differential plant growth can result from a number of factors, such as the anthropogenic enrichment of soils that result from the processing of marine resources. NIR imagery has the potential to clearly indicate such vegetation patterning, as well as indicating overall plant health. Vegetation indices, such as the Normalized Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI) use NIR imagery to assess plant health and plant species delineation. As a result, we will use NDVI data to aid in our

identification of anthropogenic landscapes, in which the processes of historic land alteration, soil enrichment, and modern vegetation growth create identifiable and observable patterns on the modern ground surface today.

This post-processing and analysis of low-elevation aerial imagery is compute-intensive, producing a substantial compute bottleneck that is difficult to resolve on a standard workstation. Accordingly, we have worked with ACENET (part of Compute Canada, the national



Figure 2: The French fisheries site at EiAv-07 (Observation Point). Subtle changes in the site's topography, such as terracing and galet location, can be difficult to capture in standard field photographs such as this.



Figure 3: A point cloud representation of EiAv-07 (Observation Point), showing the important nearshore area where stages were constructed. The level of resolution achievable through a very short UAV flight, even when taken on a day when wind gusts produced less-than-ideal flight conditions, is promising. We can then transform these point cloud representations into Digital Elevation Models, which will permit correlations with historic and archaeological evidence about site layout.

resource for Advanced Research Computing) to process our data on Compute Canada's Cloud OpenStack resources, with great success. This season, we also used Compute Canada's resources to help us make on-the-fly decisions in the field. By uploading images from our first test flight to Compute Canada's cloud resources on a mobile phone via cellular networks, we were able to rapidly generate a point cloud representation of the terrain, allowing us to visualize our data. In so doing, we were able to determine if our image collection was spatially comprehensive, or if our data had gaps that needed to be filled with further UAV flights.

Our work on this UAV-derived data is just beginning, and we hope to have further updates on our progress in 2018. We remain very grateful to Maketech for UAV engineering assistance, to the CREAT Network (Memorial University) for providing analytical computational expertise, and to ACENET and Compute Canada for assistance and access to Advanced Research Computing infrastructure. Bryn Tapper has graciously provided both data and advice. Most importantly, we would like to acknowledge the late Dr. Peter Pope (Memorial University); his exhaustive work on the archaeology of French fishing sites made this project possible, and his enthusiasm for the archaeology of French fishing sites remains an inspiration.

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Avertok Archaeology Project, 2017

[Submitted by: Laura Kelvin, Maria Lear, Jacinda Sinclair and Lisa K. Rankin]

The Avertok Archaeology Project had an eventful inaugural field season this summer in Nunatsiavut, Labrador. The Inuit Community Government of Hopedale, Nunatsiavut initiated the project and it is undertaken with the support of the Tradition and Transition: Piusitukaujuit Asianguvalliajuillu research partnership between Memorial University and the Nunatsiavut Government. The project encompasses many sub-projects and the 2017 field season had several aims:

- 1) to communicate our findings to the community and use the research to facilitate knowledge transfer between youth and Elders in Hopedale, Labrador;
- 2) to undertake ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the Moravian Cemetery in Hopedale to identify the locations of all graves, enabling the community to properly mark and care for the cemetery, and;
- 3) to locate, excavate, and learn more about the original Inuit settlement of Avertok (Agvituk, Arvertok) (GiCb-01) which underlies the present Hopedale community (Figure 1), as well as investigate other nearby sites. The 2017 field crew included Lisa Rankin (project lead), Laura Kelvin, Maria Lear, Jacinda Sinclair, Robin Fleming, Dierdre Elliott, Emma Lewis-Sing, Maryssa Barras, And Kayley Sherret from Memorial University, Emma Gilheany from the University of Chicago, and Hopedale community members Ida Semigak, John Piercy, and Rosie Edmunds.

Community Engagement:

The Hopedale community articulated that they wanted community involvement in our research, preferably in ways that facilitate knowledge exchange between Elders and youth, and needed meaningful access to research results. We hired local students Ida Semigak, John Piercy, and Rosie Edmunds with funding provided by Inuit Pathways. The students worked primarily with Kelvin in our temporary archaeological lab set up in Hopedale. Throughout the field season they cleaned and catalogued artifacts and participated in the excavations. They also created a series of videos pertaining to archaeology and Inuit heritage that can be found on the Avertok Archaeology Project's YouTube page (Figure 2). For these videos the students developed research questions and interviewed Hopedale community members and archaeologists. They also learned to use video and photo editing software. These videos are part of Kelvin's postdoctoral research, which will create a



Figure 1: *Hopedale, Nunatsiavut 2017.*



Figure 2: *Nunatsiavut summer student John Piercy shooting video for the Avertok Archaeology video series which will all be housed on a digital community archive featuring archaeological and traditional knowledge.*

digital community archive of archaeological and community knowledge of the Hopedale area.

To disseminate our research findings to the community Kelvin maintained the Avertok Archaeology Project Facebook page and Instagram account. Social media provided community members with regular updates on our research activities. These accounts will be maintained throughout the winter to update community members on our research. Ida Semigak also wrote a post for the Day of Archaeology blog. Additionally, at the end of the field season we held a community meeting to meet community members, give presentations about our research, and display some of the artifacts recovered this season.

Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) Study of the Moravian Cemetery:

The community requested a non-invasive study of the Moravian cemetery in Hopedale because locations of all of the individual burials associated with the cemetery are no longer known. This summer Maria Lear conducted a partial GPR survey of the Moravian cem-

everywhere where no headstones were present to locate some of the burials so they can be protected, marked and fenced. The results are still being analyzed but preliminary analysis is promising and further survey may be planned for the future. Click [here](#) to see a video explaining the GPR research created by the students.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is a non-destructive geophysical technique that uses radar to identify differences (or contrasts) in the subsoil. These contrasts can be then analyzed to make interpretations regarding the composition of the subsurface both in terms of natural variations and the archaeological potential. The GPR survey used a Sensors and Software Noggin system with a SmartTow™ and a 500MHz antenna. One survey grid was completed that measured 5m x 5m with transects spaced at 0.25m. This gave very good coverage of the grid and allowed the antenna to pass over the surface and record the subsoil both along the X and Y axis. The grid was located within the upper portion of the cemetery within an area flanked by high natural rock elevation to the south, and near a line of fallen headstones and among overgrown vegetation. Once the vegetation was trimmed to ground level, several oblong surface undulations were observed and thought to be indications of possible burial locations.

The final image suggests that several possible grave locations were recorded by the GPR (Figure 3). One possible unmarked grave (yellow/red) was identified in this area at the depth of 1.25m, measuring width along the X-axis of 2m-2.5m. The semi-oblong feature is consistent with a depression visible at ground level located roughly above the position of this image. Its shape, size, depth and W-E alignment is consistent with interments recorded within the historical context. As can be seen, other areas of interest were recorded at this depth as well, namely the rough-oval shaped contrast located just north of the aforementioned target, a few meters away.

Archaeological Survey and Excavation:

Avertok

Avertok is a large Inuit whaling settlement that played an important role in the Labrador Inuit coastal trade network between the 16th to 18th centuries. This large settlement prompted the Moravian missionaries to establish the Hoffenthal (Hopedale) mission nearby in 1782. Avertok is located within the present borders of Hopedale and remains culturally important to the community. The site has been subject to many archaeological investigations, most notably Junius

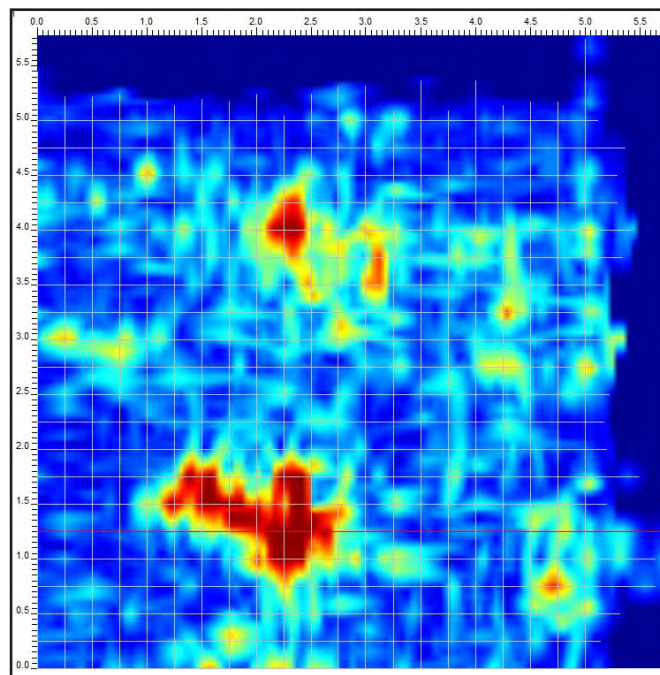


Figure 3: *Amplitude map showing possible burial locations. The red-yellow semi-oblong features are aligned W-E.*

Bird's excavation of nine Inuit houses in 1934. Modern homes, road construction and water and sewer work have all negatively impacted Avertok. Much of the site has unfortunately been destroyed. Nevertheless, the community was hopeful that some portions of the settlement remained. During the summer of 2017, Jacinda Sinclair and her team excavated test pits in locations identified by community members and Nunatsiavut archaeologists as potential house remains. Unfortunately, no evidence of house remains were located this summer. However, it is likely that there are house remains located under concrete debris deposited at the edge of the village during road construction. This area has not been impacted by sub-surface construction and the town has decided to move this rubble to allow archaeological exploration in 2018.

Old Hopedale

After the Hoffenthal mission was established, Inuit families who had been converted to Christianity began moving away from Avertok, closer to the mission. The distance to the new settlement was no more than a few hundred metres, but this symbolic relocation separated those Inuit who were Christianized from those who were not. This summer we excavated a test trench in the north end of Hopedale where early Inuit Hoffenthal residents settled. Because this site has been continuously occupied, the deposits are highly disturbed and

contained 19th century European-manufactured artifacts along side contemporary material. Additionally, a few soapstone artifacts were also recovered including a small carving of a man and a small vessel (Figure 4). [Click here](#) to see a video discussing community interpretations of these artifacts. In 2018 we will return to this area for further excavation.

Karmakulluk

The crew also re-visited the Karmakulluk site, which was excavated by Junius Bird in 1934. Although his excavation helped establish a culture history of the region, the site warranted re-examination because the original excavation and interpretation did not meet current theoretical and methodological standards in the field of archaeology. The crew re-excavated and fully mapped all features in an Inuit winter sod house

and put in test units to try to find the middens that Bird was unable to locate. This data should allow us a much more fine-grained picture of Inuit life around Hopedale in the 18th century.

We had a great first field season in Hopedale and look forward to continuing our research over the next several years. Please check our Facebook page for regular research updates. We would like to thank the Hopedale community for their support. Funding for this project has been provided by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada, the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the J.R Smallwood Foundation, Inuit Pathways, Young Canada Works in Heritage, the NL Provincial Archaeology Office and the Northern Scientific Training Program.



Figure 4: *Soapstone carving of a person recovered from Old Hopedale.*