



Council for Northeast Historical Archæology NEWSLETTER

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UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: David Landon

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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 David B.Landon, Anthropology Department, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125.
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As the fall begins and we prepare for our annual meeting, the journal office has been struggling to get out from under the summer backlog. A very active digging and lab season greatly slowed the work in the editorial office during a three-month stretch starting in late May. In September a new editorial assistant, Teresa Dujnic, joined the journal. Since that time we have been working hard to get caught up and get all of the publication projects back on track. To those of you submitting manuscripts or queries to the journal office during this period, thank you for your patience!

We continue to work on Volume 32, our 2003 issue, with the hopes of keeping our journal publication up to date and getting this out in 2003. As I have reported previously, this is a special thematic issue, edited by James Delle and Patrick Heaton, entitled, "The Finger Lakes National Forest Archaeology Project: A Case Study in Archaeology and GIS."

Contents for Volume 32:

Introduction to the Finger Lakes National Forest
Archaeology Project

James A. Delle, James Boyle, and Thomas W. Cuddy
The Rural Settlement History of the Hector Backbone
Patrick J. Heaton

Farmsteads and Finances in the Finger Lakes: Using
Archival Resources in a GIS Database
Patrick Heaton

Analyzing Farm Layout and Farmstead Architecture
Mark Smith and James Boyle

Analyzing the Settlement Pattern of the Burnt Hill Study
Area

Karen B. Wehner and Karen G. Holmberg
The Artifact Assemblage from the Finger Lakes National
Forest Archaeology Project

Janet Six, Patrick J. Heaton, Susan Malin-Boyce, and
James A. Delle

Spatial Analysis and Archaeological Resources in the
Finger Lakes National Forest

Thomas W. Cuddy

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Concluding Thoughts on the Finger Lakes National Forest Project

James A. Delle

Appendix: Creating a GIS Project in Arcview

Thomas W. Cuddy

This volume will also include book reviews, with the final list of reviews still to be finalized. If you have an outstanding review, now is the time to send it in for inclusion in this issue.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

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

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CURRENT RESEARCH

Maine

Reported by: Leon Cranmer

New Archaeological Research in Old Castine: Reading the Roadmaps in Witherle Woods

An archaeological team from the University of Maine, under the direction of Alaric Faulkner, Historical Archaeologist in the Anthropology Department, has recently completed a three-season mapping project of Witherle Woods in Castine, Maine. The project, funded through the town of Castine and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, sought to identify the numerous British and American military works and ancillary features on this large 151-acre property that defended the Castine Peninsula during the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Witherle Woods is a property densely covered by conifers, largely dead and dying spruce, which is currently being managed to reduce the fire hazard to the town of Castine. The archaeological team has created a detailed map of the area in 1-meter contour intervals with the aim of identifying and protecting the defensive works known to have been constructed within this parcel between 1779 and 1815. By walking the contours, the team has been able to detect cultural deflections in the natural shape of the landscape that result from earthworks construction and other activity that would otherwise escape notice in the woods. These perturbations of the contours, together with vestigial features such as stone walls and roadways, have allowed us to register the new base map with the many historic maps that survive from both wars. To date, eighteen such sites have been located, together with numerous ancillary features such as possible bomb craters and musketry trenches. Particularly surprising in the 2003 field season was the discovery of at least two earthwork batteries dating from the Penobscot Expedition, a brief episode of the American Revolution that took place in July of 1779. These were features that we suspected might have been obliterated by subsequent defenses in the War of 1812, but have survived against all odds.

Though some preliminary probing of these features was conducted during the mapping project, more extensive excavation will have to wait for a future research design.

Home of Robert Given in Bristol

For the second consecutive summer, Dr. Neill De Paoli directed archaeological investigations on the site of the 18th century home of Robert Given, one of Bristol, Maine's leading residents, and his family (1760s-ca. 1835). This season's excavations were part of an archaeological field school directed by De Paoli. Participants unearthed sections of the eastern, southern, and western walls to a stone-walled cellar. The cellar's suspected size, 20 by 26 feet, was quite large for the time. In addition, archaeologists uncovered remnants of wooden floor boards sitting on the cellar's floor. Originally, the whole floor of the cellar was probably covered with the boards. In addition, excavators unearthed several large fragments of hewn timbers in the cellar that most likely were part of the structure's wooden superstructure. The large quantity of fragmentary remains of English, German, and Chinese ceramic plates, dishes, bowls, tea cups, mugs, glass wine and gin bottles and tumblers, and clay smoking pipes recovered from this area suggested that the cellar sat over the kitchen and dining room(s) of the Given home.

One day was devoted to a ground-penetrating radar survey of the field south of the cellar, thanks to the generosity of Dan Welch and his employers at Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc. The GPR survey discovered several possible archaeological features. Two of them were just south and east of the Given cellar and may be further evidence of the home of Robert Given. One of them could be the base of the one or more fireplaces that heated the dwelling. A site walkover located a good-sized depression in the same area. This feature could be a second cellar to the Given structure. The ground-penetrating radar survey also recorded several anomalies further south of the Given cellar. They could be trash pits left by the Given family or fire pits used by the area's prehistoric occupants. A large feature roughly 200 feet south of the stone-walled Given cellar may be additional evidence of the Given occupation or the first evidence of the handful of English farmsteads that were scattered about the Great Falls during the second half of the 17th century.

De Paoli has tentative plans to return to the site in the summer of 2004. During that season, he intends to examine the GPR anomalies and determine if they are related to the Given dwelling and/or one of the earlier farmsteads scattered about Pemaquid Falls during the second half of the 17th century.

New Hampshire

Reported by: Dennis Howe

Excavations at the American Independence Museum, Exeter

[Submitted by Ellen Marlatt, IAC]

Independent Archaeological Consulting (IAC) has completed a preliminary site locational survey on the grounds of

the American Independence Museum as part of the planning process for the relocation of the Folsom Tavern. The Museum intends to move the tavern, which has been in its current location along Spring Street since 1929, to a more prominent position fronting Water Street. The Museum also proposes to build a sizable addition to the rear of the structure to create a Visitor's Center.

Background research clearly indicates many former uses of the museum grounds in the proposed relocation area, including a residential neighborhood (before 1802), a church (1834-1874), an armory (1876-1888) and an opera house. (1888-1919). Because archaeologists expected to find fairly large foundations and complex deposits, they opted to excavate a series of trenches with a small backhoe, examining deposits for features and artifacts. In this fashion, they could maximize the total area examined with a cost-efficient means of identifying whether intact resources were still present.

The trenches quickly revealed artifacts from the 18th-century neighborhood, including ceramics manufactured in the early 1700s. The archaeologists excavated one 1-m-x-1-m test unit by hand (using trowels and shovels instead of mechanical equipment) to collect a controlled sample through intact deposits. They ceased excavation at about 115 centimeters (3.7 ft) below surface (cmbs) atop a layer of soil capped by a nearly complete transfer-printed pearlware creamer or small pitcher that dates to 1822-1834. The deposits below the pitcher may relate more directly to residential life in the 18th century before the Baptist Church was built in 1834, and the test unit was left to be excavated at a future date.

A total of 1,094 artifacts was collected from the backhoe trenches and hand-excavated test unit. One Native American rhyolite flake was recovered, and the remaining artifacts are Euroamerican and date from the late 1600s to the early 20th century. In addition to the 18th-century material, archaeologists uncovered evidence of the former Opera House and the fire that destroyed it. Sections of tile flooring and portions of cast iron seating were observed among the rubble.

IAC archaeologists discovered that most of the area of the proposed construction and Folsom Tavern site is covered by the footprint of the massive theater building, destroyed in the 1919 fire, and a neighboring building (a two-story storage shed), with a small gap between them filled with early 18th- and 19th-century artifacts. We presume that the "gap" represents a narrow sliver of space with cultural materials predating the construction of the Baptist Church – which tie directly to the residential structure(s) of the Water Street neighborhood of the late 1700s and early 1800s.

IAC may return in the fall of 2003 to perform an additional archaeological survey, with controlled hand excavation, within the area of 18th- and 19th-century deposits. This effort would assist the Museum in collecting new data about the neighbors and families who lived along Water Street during the Colonial Period, Revolutionary War period, and the early years of American statehood. Little archaeological

research has been conducted for the time period of 1700 to 1830 in the town of Exeter, and continued investigation at the American Independence Museum would contribute much to our collective history of these exciting years.

The American Independence Museum is to be commended for its commitment of good stewardship of both their above- and below-ground resources. This preliminary archaeological exploration helps to assure that moving the tavern and constructing a Visitor's Center shall not compromise the underground evidence of Exeter's early neighborhoods. The excavations provide an opportunity to put the story of early Exeter, the Gilman family, and the American Revolution into a broader context.

Vermont

Reported by: Elise Manning-Sterling

Mapping and Database Work at Mount Independence, Orwell

[Submitted by Bob Bartone, University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center]

The University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Center (UMF ARC) is currently undertaking archaeological work related to the revolutionary war military site at Mount Independence, in Orwell, Vermont, on behalf of the State of Vermont. This important site is situated at the southern end of Lake Champlain across from Fort Ticonderoga in New York. Built and later abandoned by the American army, and subsequently occupied by British forces and their German allies prior to its abandonment, this impressive military complex played a pivotal role in events unfolding during 1776 and 1777.

Work undertaken by the UMF ARC included one month of field work in June, 2003, during which time survey and mapping work was undertaken to help with resource management concerns related to construction of a new trail system at the Mount. Previously mapped and newly identified features were surveyed using high resolution GPS and total station survey techniques. A base station and a "roving" GPS unit were used in tandem to allow for post-processing of GPS data ensuring a high degree of accuracy and precision. Ultimately, much of the previous, as well as UMF's mapping data and survey work will be incorporated into a comprehensive GIS mapping system.

The UMF ARC is also developing a data base system for the Mount, which will be compatible with previous episodes of research and all future collections. The database, along with GIS mapping data, will facilitate current and future management of this unique and important cultural resource.

East Middlebury Iron Works Site

[Submitted by Christopher L. Borstel and Brad M. DuPlantis, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., East Orange, New Jersey]

Under a work order from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, archaeologists from The Louis Berger Group, Inc., conducted a combined Phase I and II field investigation of the East Middlebury Iron Works Site (VT-AD-299) in Middlebury, Vermont, during April 2003. The ironworks was first recorded in the 1980s by industrial archaeologist Victor R. Rolando, who served as a consultant to the project. It began operations in about 1831 and closed down in 1890, having undergone at least two major renovations in the interim. At the time it closed, East Middlebury was the last operating ironworks in Vermont. Today, the site may be the best preserved example of its particular type of ironworks in the state.

The East Middlebury works used the bloomery method of iron production. In bloom smelting, iron-rich ore is reduced directly to liquid slag and a pasty mass of metal using carbon monoxide. To produce wrought iron, master bloomers worked masses of ore alternately in a charcoal-fired hearth and beneath a trip-hammer. Although bloom forging was based on European precedents, ironmasters in nineteenth-century North America brought the method to a high level of efficiency and technical skill, and the iron it produced was unsurpassed in certain applications until the 1880s.

Bloomeries tended to be small-scale operations. The East Middlebury works, for example, consisted of just three separate hearths, with a combined production capacity of around 750 tons of iron annually in the post-Civil War era. While they did not achieve the same economies of scale as large nineteenth-century blast furnaces, bloomeries could, because of their smaller size, more readily suspend and resume operations, and, according to industrial archaeologist Rolando, they may have been more responsive to changing and localized economic conditions.

Berger's work at the East Middlebury Iron Works Site was intended to evaluate its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, in advance of replacement of a nearby bridge. Fieldwork included mapping and photodocumentation of surface features and excavation of a small number of test pits. With the cooperation of the Green Mountain National Forest archaeologist, David Lacy, Berger also visited two charcoal kiln sites on U.S. Forest Service land to examine two of the facilities that may have been among those that supplied the ironworks with fuel.

The investigation mapped the locations of two or three hearth bases, the charcoal storage shed, and several foundation elements of the hydromechanical power system. The basic methods used to construct building foundations and retaining walls at the ironworks seem to have been typical of small-scale nineteenth-century industrial, commercial, and domestic construction, employing locally-available stones and boulders and relying upon dry-laid building techniques.

The test excavations produced samples of slag and charcoal, assemblages of architectural artifacts, and an iron plate possibly from the fire box of one of the bloomery hearths. No ironmaking tools or forged iron billets produced at the works were recovered, but, as noted, the excavations undertaken at the site were of limited extent. There are plans to submit samples of charcoal and slag to specialists for technical analysis so that technological comparisons can be made between the East Middlebury works and others of its type in New York and elsewhere. Even with only the currently available information, however, Berger has concluded that the East Middlebury works appears to be eligible for the National Register.

Massachusetts

Reported by: Karen Metheny

Massachusetts Archaeology Week at Old Sturbridge Village, October 12th-17th

[Submitted by Ed Hood]

On Sunday, October 12th, Old Sturbridge Village and the Archaeological Institute of America–Worcester Society will co-sponsor two programs at Old Sturbridge Village. Members of the Archaeological Institute of America who present their IDs will receive a 25% discount off admission to the Village on this day, though the afternoon program does not require entrance to the Village.

11:00am

Ed Hood, Research Historian and Staff Archaeologist at Old Sturbridge Village, will give a 45 minute walking tour of the exhibit "The Enduring People: Native American Life in Central New England". This large exhibit draws on the extensive collection of 19th century southern New England Indian artifacts in the collections of Old Sturbridge Village, as well as a selection of important historic and pre-historic Native American artifacts from other New England museums. The exhibit tells the story of the continuity of Native American life in Central New England from ancient times to the present, focusing on several local Indian families. Highlights of the exhibit include a full-scale reconstruction of a wigwam from the 1760s and some of the best examples of southern New England wooden objects and basketry dating from the 17th through the 19th centuries.

This program is free with admission to Old Sturbridge Village. Please note that members of the Archaeological Institute of America who present their IDs will receive a 25% discount on admission on October 12th.

3:00pm

Ed Hood, Research Historian and Staff Archaeologist at Old Sturbridge Village, will present a slide lecture entitled "The Archaeology of African-Americans and Native

Americans in rural, 19th century southern New England". This will take place in the Fuller Conference Center, next to the Old Sturbridge Village Herb Garden and Gift Store. Ed's lecture will cover the extensive historical and archaeological research on African-American and Native American families and communities conducted over the last decade by Village staff.

- This program is free and open to the public, and does not require admission to Old Sturbridge Village.

Sunday, October 17th at 2:00pm

Old Sturbridge Village and the China Student's Club of Boston, Inc. are co-hosting a lecture program in memory of Vivian Hawes focusing on imported ceramics in early America. This program will take place from 2pm to 4pm in the Old Sturbridge Village Fuller Conference Center and is free and open to the public. Speakers: Don Carpentier (Director, Eastfield Village) will demonstrate use of tools and equipment as practiced by English potters from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Jonathan Rickard (Independent Scholar, Collector and Author) will share his extensive knowledge of dipped wares. Nan Wolverton (Independent Scholar and Museum Consultant) will discuss and show ceramics acquired from the Hawes collection by Old Sturbridge Village

New York

Reported by: Lois Feister

NYS Bureau of Historic Sites 2003 Field Season

Archaeologists from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Historic Sites program headquartered at Peebles Island conducted ten small projects this field season, so far. One excavation involved testing the proposed route of a wooden walkway along the interior of the Riverside Battery at Fort Montgomery State Historic Site. Fort Montgomery was an American fort captured and burned by the British in 1777. Located next to the Bear Mountain bridge on the Hudson River, Fort Montgomery now is open to the public but is still being developed. Archaeological testing demonstrated that the battery feature extended farther into the fort's interior than previously thought and that the proposed walkway would damage original remains. The walkway has been redesigned as a stone dust trail. Archaeological testing at another Revolutionary War site, Stony Point Battlefield, located a few miles south of Fort Montgomery, revealed the location of another hut site (and more than a few deer ticks). Other projects involved clearing locations for new utility lines at Stony Point, Senate House in Kingston, Johnson Hall in the Mohawk Valley, Schuyler Mansion in Albany, and Mills Mansion near Hyde Park, Olana near Hudson, and collections processing for materials from Chittenango Landing, a

canal site near Syracuse.

Excavations at Mark Twain's Quarry Farm

Quarry Farm, in Elmira, was Mark Twain's western New York retreat where he did much of his writing. Students from Elmira College, led by Dr. Heidi Dierckx, are excavating a cistern located just yards from where Twain worked. Milk bottles, leather shoes, pottery, and nails were among the artifacts found. The 10 foot by 2 foot cistern revealed information about an experimental dairy that Susan Crane, Twain's sister-in-law, ran at the farm. The dairy was developed to provide safe milk for children and operated until 1919. The objects found will be cleaned, labeled, and will become part of the permanent display at Quarry Farm.

Mystery of Jane McCrea

Dr. David Starbuck and a team of state police forensic experts excavated what are believed to be the remains of Jane McCrea who was buried in Union Cemetery in Fort Edward, New York. McCrea became a cause for Colonial outrage when she was murdered by Indian allies of the British on July 27, 1777. Some historians feel this outrage contributed greatly to the American victory at Saratoga that year. A relative of McCrea gave permission for the exhumation. Found in the grave were the remains of two females, one young and one very old. The bones probably belong to McCrea and Sarah McNeil as historical accounts indicate that the two were buried together. DNA testing on McNeil's bones and comparison with that of her many descendants would show by association that the other bones belong to McCrea. Following the exhumation, the grave was closed and a wreath laid to commemorate the 226th anniversary of her murder.

Historic Cemetery Excavations

Proposed development in the Town of Colonie, near Albany, led to testing for the limits of a historic cemetery. Headstones revealed interment dates ranging from 1812 to 1904. Topsoil was stripped mechanically on three sides of the cemetery. Further scraping with shovels revealed one grave shaft outside the estimated cemetery boundary. The grave shaft reflected a hexagonal coffin shape. The head and foot of the grave was marked with wooden stakes, and the boundary of the cemetery extended to include it.

The Historic Kemp House

Located on busy commercial Wolf Road near Albany, the Kemp House is a Federal-style brick house listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeological excavations conducted there under the leadership of Jessica Schreyer and Ed Curtin of Curtin Associates revealed a strat-

ified site. Lower strata contained predominantly early to mid-19th-century artifacts mixed with earlier creamwares and pearlwares. Features found included postmolds, a possible builders' trench, and in one unit a scattering of rock debris. Ceramic finds included a Jackfield-type teapot, a "US" buckle plate, and a United States Artillery button dating from 1801 to 1811.

Prentice Farmstead Site

Archaeologists from SUNY Binghamton's Public Archaeology Facility tested the location of a mid-19th-century farmstead located near Port Crane, a small canal community. Two areas to be impacted by soil removal included one 60 feet east of the foundation of the Prentice fieldstone foundation, and a second area 35 feet to the south. Excavations revealed extensive sheet middens in both locations. Families known to have lived in the house were farmers and owners of a local sawmill.

Plank Roads Found Near Cherry Creek

Monitoring was done by archaeologists from SUNY Binghamton to locate evidence of plank and corduroy sections of road. The features were recorded and photographed. Wood samples collected showed that trees used included American Elm, black ash, hemlock, maple sugar, red pine, and tamarack. Hemlock was used for the plank road; the rest for corduroy roads. Artifacts were found associated with the plank road (whiteware, white clay tobacco pipes, a horse-shoe nail) but none with the corduroy road. Some documentary evidence suggests such a road in the planning stages in 1851. The few artifacts found confirm a mid-19th-century date.

Poughkeepsie Train Station Parking Improvements

Work by archaeologists from Historical Perspectives was conducted prior to traffic flow improvements at this commuter station. Previous work determined that the railroad roundhouse was eligible for the Register. A small section of the northeast end of the structure would be impacted by this new project. Hand and machine test trenches uncovered and documented structural remains of the roundhouse dating to the 1870s. The exterior wall, foundation, and floor of the south part of the addition called the "Boiler Room" and an exterior drainage pipe associated with the roundhouse also were found. Variations in the construction of early stall floors were noted. Many updates made over time provided an opportunity to examine construction of and alterations to this complex feature. An exhibit is planned.

Plank Road Found in Cheektowaga

SUNY Buffalo archaeologists under the direction of Elaine Herold excavated trenches across Broadway in Cheektowaga at selected locations to search for evidence of a plank road and brick tollhouse known to have been installed in 1911. The area of the tollhouse location was found to be disturbed. Best preserved evidence of the plank road was found in drier areas. Finds included marked bottles, marked bricks, ceramics, tin cans, shoe leather, and a felt hat, associated with the 1855 Stephan House.

Underwater Inspection of Acoustic and Magnetic Anomalies

Panamerican Consultants conducted an inspection of 2 acoustic and 3 magnetic anomalies in the Athens Channel in Athens, Greene County. Twenty-eight hulks adjacent to the project area along the shore also were assessed for National Register eligibility. Remote-sensing targets were defined and dived upon. Of the 3 magnetic anomalies, none could be located. Of the 2 acoustic targets, one was remains of a series of pilings along with trash and debris, the other the remains of a 19th-century canal barge. The vessels along the shore included scows, barges, a pile driver, and work boats. Further work will be conducted here on 9 that are eligible for the National Register.

New Jersey

Reported by: Lynn Rakos

A Lost Burial Ground Discovered, City of Burlington, Burlington County

[Submitted by Joan H. Geismar]

In March 2002, construction crews installing utilities for a light rail line unexpectedly uncovered human remains in historic Burlington City in Burlington County, NJ. As the project archaeologist during the construction phase of NJ TRANSIT's Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System (SNJLRTS), Joan H. Geismar was called to assess the find with Bruce Colvin, the Environmental Manager for Bechtel Corporation, the line's constructors. Extensive documentary research conducted previously under Section 106 review had found nothing to suggest the possibility of such a discovery.

The remains were located in a trench intended for utility ducts in a street laid out in 1677 that ran adjacent to tracks originally run for the former Camden & Amboy rail line in 1830. Dr. Sophia Perdikaris of CUNY's Brooklyn College Zooarchaeology Laboratory identified the bones encountered during utility trenching, and she and Shelly Spritzer, working with Dr. Geismar, conducted field explorations to determine the extent of the burial ground.

Initially it had been suspected that the remains might be those of Native Americans. However, a skull reconstructed

from fragments recovered from the trench's backdirt pile was identified as that of an elderly, Northern European male by J. Gary Sawyer, Senior Scientist in the Department of Vertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. In addition, Dr. Perdikaris and Mr. Sawyer independently concluded that all four burials, or partial burials, exposed during the subsequent field investigations to determine the potential impact from further construction, were Caucasian. A long bone submitted for C-14 dating (Beta Analytic) suggested a historic-era date for the bones.

Although 10 cubic yards of backdirt from the utility trench were screened through 1/2-inch wire mesh, no associated artifacts were recovered, nor were any observed during the field investigations. However, evidence of nail corrosion and decayed wood indicated that at least one burial, suspected to be that of the aforementioned elderly male, had been a coffin burial. In May 2002, approximately 349 bones and bone fragments from the backdirt, including the reconstructed skull, were placed in a plastic container and filled with soil before being respectfully and ceremoniously returned to the duct bank trench where they had been found.

Rather than offering definitive answers, intensive research to identify the burials has raised additional questions. However, one thing has become abundantly clear: the South (Delaware) River above modern-day Philadelphia was a multicultural area intermittently settled by the Dutch and traversed, if not settled, by, the Swedes, the Finns, and other Europeans between 1624 and 1677. In the fall of the latter year, between 200 and 230 English Quakers arrived on the east shore of the Delaware to settle the town of Burlington. Based on the location of one of the town's main streets, these settlers either decided to ignore the burial ground or it was "lost" before they arrived. A report has been prepared.

Excavations at the Abraham Staats House, South Bound Brook, Somerset County

[Submitted by Richard Veit, Monmouth University]

In the spring of 2002, Monmouth University began a program of volunteer excavations at the Abraham Staats House in South Bound Brook, Somerset County, New Jersey (28-So-234). The work, which is ongoing, is being directed by Richard Veit and is performed by volunteers from the Friends of the Abraham Staats House, Archaeological Society of New Jersey, and Monmouth University.

Although some sources assign a 17th-century date to the Staats house, the available architectural evidence indicates that it was constructed in the mid 18th century. Peter Staats purchased the land, a 305 acre plantation, in 1738. His property, which was almost immediately transferred to his son Hendrick, consisted of a long narrow lot extending south from the Raritan River. Hendrick likely erected the first structure, a two room Dutch cottage, on the property. It was expanded in the 1770s and again in the 1820s. The home remained in the ownership of the Staats family until financial reversals in the 1930s caused them to sell the property.

Abraham Staats, the best known property owner, was in residence from 1769 or 1770 until his death 1821. In 1776, when the British army drove Washington out of New Jersey, Staats was one of three patriots who were specifically excluded from the British pardons. Abraham is also reputed to have hidden the ceramic wares of New Brunswick merchants under the floor of his barn in an attempt to protect them from marauding British troops. Later, during the Middlebrook Encampment of 1778-1779, Baron Von Steuben was quartered in the house. George Washington is known to have visited Von Steuben there. Construction of the New Jersey Turnpike (not the infamous modern road) in 1821, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in 1834, led to reductions in the size of the property and provided capital which the Staats family used to initiate major improvements to the farm. The construction of the canal and a turning basin on what had been their property necessitated moving and reconstructing the farm's barns and the family cemetery.

The Staats family, like many of their contemporaries in Somerset County, owned slaves. As late as the 1830s, household inventories note their presence. One of these individuals was an elderly man named Jack, who reputedly served as an American spy during the Revolution.

The house and its three acre property have the potential to illustrate several important themes in New Jersey history, Dutch life in colonial Somerset County, the development of transportation networks, particularly turnpike roads and canals, slavery, and the colonial revival of the early 20th century, which was in part responsible for the survival of the house.

Excavations initially focused on identifying the remains of a no longer present shed addition shown in an etching of the house made by Benson Lossing for his famous Pictorial Field Book of the American Revolution. A rudely-constructed foundation was recovered in approximately the location indicated by the etching. Equally interesting were the artifacts recovered. They include a mixture of 18th and 19th century ceramics, dark green glass fragments, exceptionally well preserved buttons, numerous tobacco pipe stems, and a good collection of faunal elements. Perhaps most interestingly, a single fragment of a Montelupo Ware, manufactured in Italy in the 16th and 17th century, was recovered in direct association with the foundation. To the best of the author's knowledge, this is the first piece of this ware recovered in New Jersey. Several individuals assisted in its identification including Meta Janowitz, Judith Bense, Rob Hunter, and Edwin VanDrecht. Predating the construction of the house by almost 100 years, it was presumably an heirloom when broken and lost.

Excavations are continuing at the site, with testing focusing on the identification of landscape features to aid in the development of a master plan for the interpretation and preservation of the site. Individuals interested in volunteering should contact Richard Veit (rveit@monmouth.edu) or Kathy Faulks (bkfaulks@aol.com).

Excavations at the Evans/Rittenhouse Log Cabin,

Rosemont, Hunterdon County

[Submitted by Richard Veit, Monmouth University]

Monmouth University's summer 2003 field school was held at the Evans/Rittenhouse Log Cabin (28-Hu-546) in Rosemont, Hunterdon County, New Jersey (Figure 1). Fieldwork was directed by Richard Veit and Gerard Scharfenberger, ably assisted by Michael Gall and Allison Savarese. Twenty six students participated in the class. When the Evans' purchased their house in 1999 it was a rather rundown ramshackle farmhouse. In the process of removing siding from the house, the homeowners realized that the structure was, in fact, a two-story log cabin with an attached one-and-a-half story stone addition. Subsequent landscaping revealed a vaulted root cellar or gewolbkellar to the east of the house, as well as several other foundations. Tree-ring dating indicates that the log section of the house, which shows both German and English construction techniques, was erected in 1788.

The home sits on land purchased by William Rittenhouse in the 1730s. It remained in the Rittenhouse family until 1815, when it was sold. The Rittenhouses are more famous as early settlers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and for the work of William Rittenhouse, America's first papermaker. A series of owners held the property during the 19th century, and it seems to have devolved from a family-owned farm, to a tenancy. This transformation began after the untimely death of Lott Rittenhouse in 1813. An inventory taken at the time of his death reveals a hardscrabble existence. He and his family had few possessions, other than livestock and agricultural implements, and even some of the animals in his barn and fields were claimed by his neighbors. This unfortunate situation may, in fact, have resulted in the survival of the log house, when so many other log structures were replaced by more formal frame buildings, reflecting the growing prosperity of their owners. The owners of this tenant-occupied structure had few reasons to improve or modify it.

Excavation by Richard Veit and Lloyd Evans, the home-



owner, during restoration work inside the house, revealed a small earthen cellar pit in front of the log structure's hearth. This pit had been filled in the 1830s and contained roughly 400 artifacts, primarily ceramic vessels, many of which were intact or nearly so. They consist primarily of redwares, especially pans, and utilitarian pots. One of the vessels was mended with iron wire. Also found were coins, thimbles, a sadiron, fragments of a bone-handled fan, and at least six early-19th-century shoes.

The field school focused on defining the size of the root cellar and identifying other structures. The cellar proved to be too large for the time allotted. It measures roughly 18 by 24 feet, with the long axis oriented east to west. The massive stone stairs leading down to the vault, extend approximately 12-feet underground, before turning and entering the structure. Buried 18 to 20 inches belowground and immediately behind the cellar, the remains of at least two other structures, as well as a stone-paved work area, were unearthed. Sadly, very few artifacts were found in association with these features making it particularly challenging to date them. Testing in front of the house revealed a pair of stone box drains, apparently part of an early water supply system installed when the house was erected. A spring located upslope and to the north of the house was channeled into the cellar of the log house, where it could have cooled milk or other dairy products. Gray water then left the house through two drains running south and to Wichecheoke Creek. Simple and effective, the hydraulic system reveals a considerable amount of forethought on the part of the house's builders.

Currently the house is being restored. As one of a handful of surviving log houses in the state, the site has considerable architectural as well as archaeological and historical significance.

Delaware

Reported by: Lu Ann De Cunzo

Fenwick Island

[Submitted by Ned Heite, Heite Consulting]

Heite Consulting, Inc., of Camden, Delaware, has been conducting data recovery excavations on a site near Fenwick Island, in the state's resort district. In response to a Corps of Engineers permit application, three eligible sites were identified on the tract to be called Americana Bayside subdivision. Data recovery was instituted on one prehistoric and one historic site.

Maryland

Annapolis

Archaeology in Annapolis, a cooperative project between the University of Maryland College Park and the Historic Annapolis Foundation, initiated a series of related excavations and public programs during the summer of 2003, both in the Eastport neighborhood of Annapolis and the reconstructed William Paca garden in the historic district of the city. These efforts were directed at developing the heritage value of archaeology in these two areas, and at supporting partnerships with educators and local community members.

For six weeks in June and July, field school students from the University of Maryland excavated in the Eastport neighborhood of Annapolis. The 2003 summer field school was our third and most productive season of excavation in Eastport so far. Four individual properties were examined by the 16 graduate and undergraduate students participating in the work, and included the home of a sequence of German immigrants and business owners, the site of a small neighborhood grocery, a parsonage that served an African-American Methodist Episcopal church in Eastport, and a small duplex that has been a rental property throughout its history. These sites were occupied from the end of the nineteenth century to the present day, and all of them are currently owner-occupied. They represent the development of Eastport's predominantly working class community, but they also represent a growing base of support for archaeology in the neighborhood. All of the sites are privately owned and are available for our investigation because the residents are interested in learning about the heritage of their community.

The generosity of these homeowners allowed us to make several important discoveries. A midden deposit at the parsonage, which housed an African-American minister named Alexander Dennis starting in 1908 and continued to serve the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church until the 1960s, offers some insight into the way this cultural and spiritual leader and his family provisioned their household. Following Paul Mullins' interpretation of African-American consumption at the Maynard-Burgess house in Annapolis, we anticipate that Dennis used his spending power along the lines that W. E. B. DuBois and other Black intellectuals of the early twentieth century promoted. Reverend Dennis may have attempted to forge his congregations—he was responsible for a circuit of three churches—into a spending block that supported Black businesses and could influence local markets to respect, if not employ African Americans. There are two ways to test this hypothesis, and both of them depend upon our relationship to the African-American community: via writings that Dennis left with the church, and through additional excavation in the yards of African-American Eastporters. Discovering what our research might offer the African-American community in Eastport has been challenging, and this effort spans the fall, winter and spring. However, in

many ways this was the responsibility of field school students who worked daily within this neighborhood. Students hosted area residents on invited or impromptu but carefully scripted tours of our excavations, explaining our methods and goals and relating it to the personal stories provided by visitors, whether they were recent homebuyers or from old settler families. This method, wherein students are also spokespersons for the project, was productive at all four sites examined during this field season, and it has allowed us to identify likely locations for future excavation and research.

Extending a long partnership with the Banneker-Douglass Museum, housed in the historic Mt. Moriah A. M. E. Church in Annapolis, a separate effort used archaeological findings on African-American history and culture in the city as part of a six-week summer youth program, which went on in part in the William Paca Garden and adjacent archaeology laboratory. Maisha Washington, an educator with the museum, coordinated with Dr. Tom Cuddy of Historic Annapolis Foundation and UMD graduate student Tonika Berkley to lead the middle-school students through mock excavations and other activities. The diverse curriculum culminated with a presentation by the students at the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival held in Crownsville, Maryland in August 2003.

A third and separate program went on throughout the summer. UMD graduate Jason Shellenhamer undertook an internship with Archaeology in Annapolis, to assemble varied data on archaeological excavations in the William Paca Garden and design a tour of the garden that highlighted these discoveries. Typically guided tours of the garden are not available, and materials distributed on the garden do not detail the excavations required to reconstruct it. During his twenty-minute tour Shellenhamer explained the garden as a three-dimensional space that functioned as a *trompe-l'oeil* or manipulation of perspective to create the illusion of depth, and also discussed its reconstruction, detailing the archaeological evidence for many elements seen in the garden today, including the relief of the furthest 'wilderness' portion of the garden, the terraces, the spring house and similar structures. Nearly 450 persons took the tour over the course of the summer. Excavations in the garden were initiated in the 1970s, and detailed the extended use of this property by William Paca and others throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For many years the reconstructed garden was considered the most important product of this research, and in some ways it stood in place of a substantive report of the data from these excavations. One product of the current project will be a synthesis of archaeological research carried on since the garden, formerly buried by a hotel and parking lot, was unearthed. For more information, contact Matthew Palus (mpalus@starpower.net or (301) 608-9571).

St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City has achieved the highest honor for a museum, accreditation by the American Association of

Museums (AAM). AAM Accreditation signifies excellence within the museum community. It is a seal of approval and strengthens individual museums and the entire field by promoting ethical and professional practices. Being accredited enables museum leaders to make informed decisions, allocate and use resources wisely, and maintain the strictest accountability to the public they serve.

Of the nation's nearly 16,000 museums approximately 750 are currently accredited. It is a rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. Historic St. Mary's City is one of only 16 museums accredited in Maryland.

"The process of becoming accredited involved the entire staff and board in a self-study that took place over two years. We examined the way we managed collections, our service to schools, our maintenance practices, the museum's relationship with our community, and our partnership with St. Mary's College of Maryland," HSMC Executive Director Dr. Martin Sullivan noted. "Accreditation recognizes the level of professionalism and commitment of Historic St. Mary's City. It acknowledges the museum's commitment to excellence and high standards of operation." Sullivan added, "One significant benefit of AAM accreditation is that it opens doors to relationships with agencies and foundations that look for this "Seal of Approval."

Historic St. Mary's City is a museum of history and archaeology on the site of Maryland's colonial capital. It is located off Maryland Route 5, in beautiful tidewater Southern Maryland. Exhibits including the Maryland Dove, a Woodland Indian Hamlet, Town Center, and the Godiah Spray Plantation are open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, , or visit the HSMC web site, www.stmaryscity.org.

As the national service organization representing the American museum community, the American Association of Museums addresses the needs of museums to enhance their ability to serve the public. For more about AAM and the Accreditation program please visit www.aam-us.org. Charles County

On behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Louis Berger Group, Inc. has carried out Phase I, II, and III investigations at the Two Friends Site on the Patuxent River in Charles County, Maryland. This small domestic site dates to roughly 1740 to 1780. At that time the property was part of a large plantation known As Two Friends that belonged to the Sotheron family. The site is obviously not the main plantation house, and based on the written records it could have been the residence of slaves, tenants, an overseer, or a junior member of the family. About half of the site was to be impacted by the construction of a new wetland, and only that half was excavated. The excavations exposed about 25 overlapping pits containing large amounts of animal bone and bottle glass and some other domestic trash. Most of the bone was beef, and much of it was butchery waste rather than food waste. Evidence of gunflint manu-

facture was also found, including cores and flakes of imported flint and broken gun flints.

The status of the occupants of the site remains something of a puzzle. The site was small and in a low, somewhat swampy location, and no window glass was found, which suggests slaves. On the other hand, pieces of several fine ceramic dishes were found, including white stoneware plates and elaborately painted delft bowls, and the animal bone was mostly beef. Also, the pits seem to have been dug for the burial of trash, since no other purpose for them could be suggested, and such careful trash disposal would be highly unusual at a slave quarter. Perhaps this practice provides a clue to what went on at the site. Written records show that at least in the early 1700s the Sotherons were involved in tanning, and perhaps the pits were dug to bury tanning or butchery waste objectionable even to tough eighteenth-century noses. In that case the site would have been a combination of a residence and a work yard where butchering, gunflint manufacture, and possible tanning were carried out.

Virginia

Reported by: Barbara Heath

Archaeology at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

[Submitted by Barbara Heath]

Archaeologists working at Poplar Forest, the Bedford-county plantation most notably associated with Thomas Jefferson, continue their multi-year exploration of the property. Since 1989, work has focused on restoration-related investigations near the main house and its associated dependencies, exploration of the material worlds of the multigenerational plantation communities and of their impact on the landscape, and research into the ornamental pleasure grounds designed by Jefferson and altered by subsequent property owners. The public component of our work continued in 2003 with site tours for school groups and adult visitors, internship and volunteer opportunities, and four intensive programs of archaeology instruction. These included a five-week field school and two one-week teachers' seminars co-sponsored with the University of Virginia, and a two-day archaeology-based component of a week-long day camp for area children.

In 2001, archaeologists began systematic testing of a gently-sloping terrace located south of two mid nineteenth-century tenant houses. Documents indicate that two intersecting early nineteenth-century roads ran along portions of this terrace. A modern fenceline defining its eastern boundary appears to be a descendant of a fence that is depicted in an 1813 map of the property enclosing a 10-acre area around Jefferson's octagonal dwelling house. Documents also suggest the possibility of historic structures in the area, including stables and slave quarters. Historic photos reveal that in the early twentieth century, the majority of the terrace was in

cultivation.

Testing revealed that, beneath two distinct plowzones, a thick deposit of fill sealed cultural layers along the eastern portion of the terrace. Very few artifacts were recovered from the fill; however those that were found indicate that the terrace was created by filling a hillside sometime in the first half of the nineteenth century. One test unit also contained a feature consisting of a dense concentration of mid nineteenth-century domestic artifacts sealing a thick deposit of stone rubble.

Archaeologists interpreted this feature as the base of a robbed-out stone chimney. The stone feature has not been excavated, however, and this interpretation may change in the coming months. Preliminary analysis of the artifacts overlying the stones indicates that the stone rubble was sealed sometime after 1851.

During the spring and summer of 2003, staff, volunteers and field school participants returned to the area surrounding the stone feature and expanded the initial test units to a block excavation measuring 20 ft. x 25 ft. They discovered a series of plowzone layers and features that relate to gardening activities in the area between c. 1870 and 1950. This garden is most likely associated with several generations of residents of the nearby South Tenant house. Excavators also discovered a fully-articulated dog buried on the site. The grave appears to be roughly contemporaneous with the earliest use of this area as a garden.

Archaeologists discovered the edges of the stone feature, a subfloor pit, and the re-deposited clay fill layer sealed beneath these garden-related features. The stone feature contains an 8ft. by 5 ft. base of concentrated large field stones (some clearly cut and shaped) and a parallel 5.5 ft. by 2.5ft. deposit of smaller schist fragments that appear to represent debris from stone working. In addition to the size and alignment of the stones themselves, the density and variety of artifacts associated with this feature—ceramic and glass tablewares, forks, knives and spoons, animal bones and floral remains, adornment items and sewing utensils, tools and children's toys—suggest its association with a house site. In 2001, an initial assessment of the artifact dates (c. 1820-1851) and the documentary evidence suggested that the site was either a slave quarter or an overseer's house. Given the historic record, which lists as many as 30 enslaved individuals living on the property in the antebellum period, the minimal architectural evidence outside of the probable chimney base, and the discovery of an associated 3 ft.-square subfloor pit during the spring of 2003, we currently hypothesize that this site was a quarter.

Subfloor pits are common features of colonial, federal and antebellum slave quarters throughout Virginia, dug by enslaved residents to provide storage space for foodstuffs and personal belongings. Currently under excavation, the pit is stratified with distinct fill layers containing carbonized wood, seeds and plant remains, well-preserved and abundant faunal remains, and domestic artifacts. One hundred percent

of the subfloor pit fill has been floated to date. The flotation samples have not yet been processed, but a cursory examination indicates numerous glass seed beads, pieces of clothing hardware, straight pins, fish scales, bones, and botanical remains.

Archaeologists have recovered architectural remains including brick fragments, mortar, cut and wrought nails, and window glass from the fill above the stone feature, from the subfloor pit, and from the surrounding plowzone. Although a date of construction has not yet been determined, preliminary analysis of artifacts associated with the features suggests that the dwelling was erected sometime between the 1820s and 1840s. Brick and mortar rubble found in layers surrounding the chimney base may indicate that the hearth was brick-lined, or that the structure was supported by brick piers. No firm evidence has yet been found of the walls themselves; however it is currently hypothesized that, like other outbuildings dating to this period, the structure was built of log.

Among the thousands of domestic artifacts recovered to date, the most evocative object was recovered from the fill above the probable chimney base. Known as a "hand charm," the object depicts a raised, clenched fist centered in a circle and stamped out of sheet brass. Archaeologists have recovered seven other charms, similar and in some cases identical to the Poplar Forest example, from quarters at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, a cabin associated with the Hilderbrand house in Memphis, a cabin at Wynnewood resort in Sumner County, Tennessee and the Charles Calvert House in Annapolis, Maryland. With the exception of the Maryland object, which was recovered from an urban household made up of black and white residents, the charms are consistently associated with antebellum slave quarters. While the function of this tiny artifact remains debated, archaeologists have hypothesized that enslaved people used the "hands" as protective charms, objects hidden from view that helped shield people from physical and spiritual harm. The small size of the "hands" may indicate that these objects were especially useful for protecting infants and small children from calamity in an age with high infant mortality through disease and accident.

Testing in 2001 indicates that the clay fill layer which the probable chimney base and subfloor pit intrude seals additional cultural strata. We hypothesize that the antebellum cabin currently under excavation sits on top of an earlier nineteenth century site. Work will continue into 2004 to complete excavation of the cabin remains, the clay fill layer, and the underlying cultural deposits.

Participants in the annual teachers' seminar began additional testing just east of the terrace edge in an area where previous survey had revealed a scatter of early nineteenth-century artifacts. The proximity of this artifact scatter to the terrace suggests that the cultural strata preserved beneath the clay fill layer of the terrace may have extended out into an adjoining field. While this area has been plowed, a concen-

trated area of early nineteenth-century artifacts has been defined running parallel to the terrace. Three adjacent test units revealed high concentrations of brick and schist, suggesting the possibility of an additional Jefferson-period structure in this vicinity. Further work is needed to refine the plowzone data.

West Virginia

Reported by: William Updike

The Marmet Lock Replacement Project

[Submitted by Robert F. Maslowski, Huntington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers]

The Marmet Lock Replacement Project, located on the Kanawha River, nine miles above Charleston, West Virginia, required archaeological excavations at six sites in an 18 acre tract at the mouth of Burning Spring Branch. The cultural components at these sites included much of the prehistory and history of the Kanawha Valley from Late Paleo Indian to A. D. 1900. The results of the historic excavations are documented in several technical reports, journal articles, and the film *Red Salt and Reynolds*.

Red Salt and Reynolds is a 28 minute film made for public television that interprets the historic archaeology at the Marmet Lock Replacement Project, in Kanawha County, West Virginia. The excavations uncovered four salt furnaces, John Reynolds' Mansion, the cabin occupied by his slaves and the cemetery where he and several family members were buried. The film uses historic and industrial archaeology, bioanthropology and historic documents to detail the rise and fall of the Reynolds family and the local salt industry which was once the largest salt producer in America.

The film will be distributed by the Corps of Engineers to all high schools, middle schools, colleges, universities and libraries in the Kanawha Valley. The film will be available to the public through the West Virginia Archeological Society, the Clay Center in Charleston, Tamarack in Beckley, and the Delf Norona Museum in Moundsville.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

Port au Choix National Historic Site of Canada

[Submitted by Peter Pope and Roger Pickavance]

In July 2003, Priscilla Renouf of the Memorial University Archaeology Unit excavated part of a French bread oven, at Barbace Cove in Port au Choix National Historic Park, with the assistance of Roger Pickavance, Peter Pope and Patty Wells. The collapsed structure is about 2.7 m square and was constructed of the local tabular limestone with a few bricks. Most of the structure appears to have been mortared with sods, though fragments of a more conventional mortar were found around the oven floor. Other bricks turned up in the



surrounding rubble and are probably part of the chimney fall. Finds of coarse earthenware from western France near the footings suggest that the structure dates to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The oven appears to have been rebuilt at least once. Deposits of beach gravel around the oven opening, interleaved with organic charcoal deposits likely represent intermittent efforts to improve the work surface near the oven door. This example seems to match documented bread ovens, which were domes constructed with double walls, filled between with rubble as insulation. A wood fire inside the oven was used to preheat the structure and was raked out, the bread then baking in the heat retained by the stone mass of the oven. The effects of heating show very clearly on the central part of the limestone floor of the Port au Choix oven. Further survey in Barbace Cove, Old Port au Choix, and at Crouse, on the other side of Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula, identified several other bread ovens, which are a prominent feature of the cultural landscape of Newfoundland's French Shore, used by seasonal fishermen between 1504 and 1904.

Prince Edward Island

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

Greenwich, Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada

A Parks Canada team, under the direction of Rob Ferguson, continued its inventory of historic sites within the new park lands at Greenwich. Scott Buchanan and Helen Evans conducted a two-week geophysical survey using the Geonics EM-38 to gather data on electrical conductivity and magnetic susceptibility. Ron Whate, with site assistants Michael Smallwood, Kathy Johnston and Heather Shaw, tested a major anomaly from the survey. This proved to be an 18th-century cellar associated with the French occupation, 1720-1758. A preponderance of iron stock, scrap iron

and slag indicates that a blacksmith operated in the area. A variety of expensive porcelains, including polychrome and Batavian wares and an An Hua-style serving dish, attests to the material success of the blacksmith.

The team continued to investigate a large circular stone feature eroding from the bank at another farm site. Originally thought to be a cellar, by virtue of its size (3-m diameter), it now looks like an unusually large well. The feature has been sectioned to a depth of over 2 m. The bottom is filled with loose stones, which extend at least a further 0.5m into standing water. Salvage excavation will continue next year.

Both cellar and well had been filled in, probably by late 18th-century British settlers. Most surface contexts have been destroyed by ploughing, which continued from the 1760s to the 1970s. Geophysical surveying has been invaluable in identifying the surviving sub-surface features.

Nova Scotia

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada

[Submitted by Jonathan Fowler]

For the past three summers, Saint Mary's University, Parks Canada, and the Société Promotion Grand-Pré have collaborated to undertake archaeological excavations at Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada. The project, a field school, is directed by Jonathan Fowler, and aims to inventory and explore belowground cultural resources, particularly those associated with the pre-Deportation Acadian occupation. Of special interest is the veracity of the tradition marking this as the site of the Acadian parish church of Saint-Charles-des-Mines, established in 1687 and presumably destroyed by New England soldiers in January of 1756. Test excavations are guided by the results of an extensive geophysical survey conducted by Duncan McNeill, using the Em-38b by Geonics.

Thus far, excavations have uncovered at least one structure, apparently a house, located just a few meters east of the memorial church. Perpendicular test trenches have brought to light three dry-stone foundation walls forming a rectangular footprint. With its long axis oriented north-south, the building measures five meters in width, and although the fourth section of foundation has not yet been revealed, we may postulate a length of approximately 7 meters using length:width ratios derived from other Acadian domestic sites. The area enclosed by the foundations has been subject to a number of fill events, the earliest fill so far excavated being dateable to the late 18th century, and the final fill events deriving from early 20th century landscaping activities associated with the creation of the park. Neither the primary destruction fill nor the building's cellar have yet been excavated, but the preponderance of charcoal and fire-hard-

ened torchis – a clay wall infill common to pre-Deportation Acadian domestic architecture – hint at the means of destruction. Valuable evidence concerning the building's date of construction may be derived from the fill enclosing a stone drain leading north from the structure. Artifacts recovered from this fill match our expectations for a pre-Deportation Acadian occupation, and contain none of the later 18th century ware types seen in the other fill events on site. Next season's work will further clarify the picture by excavating the earliest fills and uncovering the surface of the cellar floor. The discovery of battered slate roofing tiles within the cellar fill was something of a surprise this year, given that this roofing technique has not previously been noted on pre-Deportation Acadian domestic sites, either archaeologically or in the historical record. It may suggest the presence of a status building on site, something that we have not seen before in the Acadian context.

New Publication

Ceramics in America 2003

Annual journal on pots made or used in America. Full color 8 1/2 x 11 inch format, 320 pp. Edited by Robert Hunter, published by The Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee, distributed by University Press of New England.

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All 3 volumes will be available for the special price at the 2003 meeting in Lowell, Mass. (contact George Miller or Amy Earls)

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Highlights in the Development of the Rockingham and Yellow Ware Industry in the United States
Arthur F. Goldberg

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*For two people at the same mailing address. / Pour deux personnes de la meme adresse postale. Elles ne recoivent qu'un exemplaire des publications.
** For those who feel a primary commitment to Northeast Historical Archaeology and wish to support the Council's activities at a higher voluntary membership rate. / Pour ceux qui s'interessement a l'archeologie historique du Nord-est americain et qui veulent aider a soutenir l'action du Conseil en versant une cotisation plus elevee.