



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

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CNEHA Has a Permanent Address for Its Website: <a href="http://www.smcmm.edu/cneha">http://www.smcmm.edu/cneha</a>	

## COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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Northeast Historical Archaeology seeks manuscripts dealing with historical archaeology in the Northeast region, including field reports, artifact studies, and analytical presentations (e.g., physical anthropology, palynology, faunal analysis, etc.). We also welcome commentary and opinion pieces. To submit a manuscript or request preparation of manuscript guidelines, write to David B. Landon, Anthropology Department, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125. [david.landon@umb.edu](mailto:david.landon@umb.edu)

## Pointe-à-Callière presents Old Montréal in a New Light

Presented by Clarica  
November 2, 2004 to April 24, 2005  
in the temporary exhibition hall

*Explore Old Montréal from some  
unusual angles and viewpoints!*

Montréal, August 26, 2004 - Old Montréal is a perennial favourite with Montrealers, visitors and tourists, but how many of them can really claim to know all the ins and outs of its historic heritage?

That's where Old Montréal in a New Light comes in. The new temporary exhibition presented by Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, will open November 2.

The Museum stands atop the actual birthplace of Montréal and protects the archaeological remains associated with the colony's very first days. Now, in keeping with its mission, Pointe-à-Callière is putting together an exhibition that will introduce visitors to Old Montréal from some unusual angles and viewpoints.

The old city, tucked between the St. Lawrence River and a modern downtown, is one of North America's most important heritage ensembles. The new exhibition will focus on buildings, urban sites and interiors to help visitors decipher and understand this familiar yet mysterious setting.

The exhibition will draw extensively on the new book entitled *L'histoire du Vieux-Montréal à travers son patrimoine*, put out by Les Publications du Québec under the direction of the Société de

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développement de Montréal. Visitors will be able to explore the key aspects of Old Montréal, illustrating its evolution and conservation success stories.

Old Montréal in a New Light will be designed to provide guideposts for visitors interested in decoding the history of the district as they roam the streets of Old Montréal. It will look at the present-day realities of a contemporary historic quarter and how it manages the delicate balance between inno-

vation and conservation, leading to today's varied streetscape of residential, commercial, religious, cultural and financial buildings.

In the exhibition hall, visitors will be taken on a stroll through parts of the old city. The route will not be linear or chronological, however, as they will be led past buildings that embody several distinct historical periods and down streets lined by buildings dating from different periods. Better yet, the exhibition will even show visitors some places and objects they would never have access to on a normal tour of Old Montréal.

L'histoire du Vieux-Montréal à travers son patrimoine was launched in May of this year, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the creation of the historic district of Old Montréal, in 1964, and the 25th anniversary of the Agreement on the cultural development of Montréal, a joint accord between the Quebec government and the City of Montréal for the purpose of renewing the historic district. An English version of the book is due out this fall.

Old Montréal in a New Light is being created by Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, and presented by Clarica. It is being produced under the Agreement on the cultural development of Montréal.

The Museum is subsidized by the City of Montréal.

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## NEW CNEHA BIBLIOGRAPHY

The CNEHA Board is undertaking a comprehensive bibliography of publications pertaining to Northeast Historical Archaeology, and the new bibliography will appear in 2006, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the founding of CNEHA. It will include all publications since 1986, the year of our last comprehensive bibliography (covering all years up to that date). For further information, contact David Starbuck at [dstarbuck@Frontiernet.net](mailto:dstarbuck@Frontiernet.net). (Additional reminders will appear in every issue of the CNEHA Newsletter until the bibliography is finished.)

### UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: David B. Landon and Teresa Dujnic

We are happy to report that the work of the journal office continues to go very well this year. We managed to keep the journal business office open in June and August this year, and the additional time during the summer allowed us to keep several projects moving and push ahead with an ambitious production schedule. We are currently proceeding with the production of a second volume in our monograph series, *Palisades in the New World*, by Marshall Becker (Edited by Karen Metheny). This volume is scheduled to surface in late 2005. The Journal extends a warm welcome to our new editorial assistant, Jennifer Malpiedi, who has joined the editorial staff to work on the monograph's production.

In addition to the new volume of the monograph series, we are also preparing *Northeast Historical Archaeology* Volume 33, the 2004 issue. This volume is currently comprised of 4 articles and 2 book reviews, with 3 pending manuscripts still under final revision. The volume will feature a variety of articles on subjects such as dress and the making of identity in the 18th century, the conditions of historic graveyard preservation in the Northeast, and the social lives of the Massachusetts's rural elite in the 18th century. Based on the current production schedule we hope to be mailing this volume out to members in early 2005.

The summer also allowed the journal to keep pace with back-issue orders and requests for the ever-popular "Telling Time in the Twentieth Century" poster. We have been selling so many back issues and posters that the office frequently has the feel of a small mail-order business; 2004 will definitely mark a new record for back issue sales. If you have not yet heard the news, we have produced a sequel (or, rather, prequel) to the first poster entitled, "Telling Time in the Nineteenth Century." The second poster is also based on the chronology established by Miller, Samford, Shlasko, and Madsen in their article "Telling Time for Archaeologists" (*Northeast Historical Archaeology* 29, 2000) and was produced as a joint project between URS and CNEHA. If you

are interested in getting a copy and missed the display at the conference in Kingston, send \$12 (\$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling) in a check or money order payable to UMass Boston / CNEHA, to David Landon, Anthropology Department, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125.

### Newsletter Editor's Report

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

Please send news for the next issue of the CNEHA Newsletter by January 15 to the appropriate provincial or state editor.

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## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Connecticut

Reported by: Cece Saunders

#### Western Connecticut State University

[Submitted by Laurie Weinstein]

Western Connecticut State University, under the direction of Laurie Weinstein, is offering a new class in cultural resource management. The students in the 2004 fall class are working with the State's Department of Environmental Protection to nominate the Diamond Match Company site in Southford Falls State Park to the State Register of Historic Places. The students are involved in hands-on research. Some students have been consulting the Industrial Censuses, others are tracing land deeds and researching the industrial history of Connecticut during the late 19th and early 20th century. This class is also part of a new minor in CRM in the Social Sciences Department of the Danbury campus of the State University system.

### New York

Reported by: Lois Feister

#### Significant Sites Found on Grounds of Culinary Institute of America

Archaeologists working in Hyde Park, NY, on the grounds of the famous cooking school, the CIA, found occupations spanning 3000 years of history. Many well-preserved historic features such as basement foundations, wells, a dam, cobble floors, and terraced hillsides were uncovered. Led by Dirk Marcucci of Landmark Archaeology, the archaeologists uncovered thousands of historic artifacts dating from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s including a 1778 Spanish coin, marbles, tobacco pipes, buckles, and large quantities of ceramics and glass. Early work led to the CIA revising its original construction plans so as to avoid most of the site. Marcucci and his team have finished excavating that area of the site to be impacted. Source: press release; Poughkeepsie Journal

#### Underwater Work in the Hudson River

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's research vessel collected river data from the area of the Tappan Zee through the Hudson Highlands. This is the next leg of a long-term project to analyze the river's historic artifacts and archaeological remains. The Hudson is "full of stuff, from sunken Hudson River sloops to the defenses George Washington put in the river to stop the advance of British warships" reported Robin Bell. The goal is to figure out what is important, what artifacts should be recovered, and what remains should stay undisturbed. The project grew out of the State Department of Environmental Conservation's project to map the Hudson from the Verrazano Narrows Bridge to the Troy Dam in phases since 1996. The original program concentrated on fish habitats and locations of contaminants. The submerged cultural resources were a surprise. The research vessel is equipped with advanced hydrographic and navigation equipment including global positioning systems, sonar systems, and hydrographic data acquisition and data processing systems. These new technologies are especially useful in a tidal estuary like the Hudson. Stony Brook archaeologist Daria Merwin and staff from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum are involved with the project, which will use divers during the next phase. Merwin hopes to establish archaeological preserves in the Hudson, similar to those already in place in Lake George. Source: Journal News, West Point

#### Excavations Continue at Black Enclave

Chris Lindner of Bard College and Susan Hinkle, researcher and consultant, continue their work at the black settlement known as Guinea located near Hyde Park. At least 60 persons have been documented as once living here, both

freed and fugitive black slaves from the 1780s to the 1860s. As well as excavations at the house sites, the excavators are using deed and church records, oral histories from the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library, and other documents. Lindner and Hinkle thought they understood this site before they started, but the excavations are raising new questions about the residents and their community life. Source: Poughkeepsie Journal.

### **Archaeology at the Whitehall Ferry Terminal Site**

Excavations to 7.5 feet below current grade by backhoe and by hand by Lewis Berger and Associates revealed that original 18th century landfill deposits at this New York City site were extensively disturbed by utilities. However, a portion of a timber landfill retaining structure was uncovered. Eighteen timbers 14 feet long and 14 inches in diameter were exposed. The timbers were arranged in grid patterns to form cribs or cells. Large cobbles found on top, within, and adjacent probably were used to sink the wooden structure in place. Earth fill then was placed on top. An intact section of this fill contained finds such as a wig curler, window glass, nails, gunflints, delft, stoneware, porcelain, white salt-glazed stoneware, and creamware. Tobacco pipes with marks including SH, IS, TK under a crown, and DEJONG also were found.

### **Archaeology at Federal Hall National Memorial**

The Federal Hall National Memorial was built between 1834 and 1842 as a customs house. The building was placed over the site of the Federal Hall where Washington was inaugurated. Uneven settling of the standing structure required engineering test pits to determine the cause. Hartgen Archeological Associates discovered a foundation from an earlier structure and recovered artifacts from the mid-18th century occupation. This earlier foundation was circular and appears to be one of a series of unidentified structures that were once behind the buildings on Wall Street in the early 19th century.

### **Investigations at Tweed Courthouse**

New construction and restoration projects at the famous Tweed Courthouse in NYC required archaeological testing and mitigation conducted by Hartgen Archeological Associates. Twenty-eight partially intact and heavily disturbed historic burials were found on the north side of the courthouse. Many more disarticulated human remains were found in other places. Architectural finds included stone foundations, a brick drain, a well, privy, and walls. Several of these remains probably were associated with the former almshouse building and/or military barracks that once stood

on this property. Intact burials were left in situ. Artifacts included buttons, crown glass waste, a scale weight, coins, chamber pots, pipes, pins, and knives. Faunal analysis by Marie-Lorraine Pipes showed the presence of cattle, pig, sheep, chicken, duck, goose, passenger pigeon, fish, oyster, mussel, and clam. The privy fill was tested for parasite eggs and found positive for their presence, but at lower levels than at most urban sites. Most common were intestinal parasites.

### **Archaeology at a Watchman's House**

Kise, Straw and Kolodner performed data recovery work at the canal watchman's house and midden site at the Cuddebackville dam in Orange County. The dam is to be removed to increase the available habitat for several endangered species of wildlife. Artifacts associated with the watchman's house dated to the 19th century and included whitewares, a silver cuff link, pipes, buckles, and buttons. Three cast-iron stove feet were found near a chimney. No previous archaeological reports have been found on canal watchman's houses. Comparison of this site with canal lock keepers' houses showed that the watchman's house's artifact assemblage contained a narrower variety of artifacts. Most artifacts indicated male presence with the exception of a porcelain hairpin. No child-related artifacts were found.

### **World War I Training Trenches Evaluated**

The Institute for Long Island Archaeology investigated World War I features located on the grounds of the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Suffolk County. Features located by surface survey were mapped. Trench complexes and three foundation complexes were found. These included a U-shaped training trench and approach trench, communication trenches, and a pistol firing range trench. Foundations were from infantry regiment officers quarters and buildings that housed five training battalions.

### **Inn, Hotel, and Diner Sites Excavated**

As part of the realignment of New York Route 17, the Public Archaeology Facility at SUNY Binghamton excavated the sites of four hospitality-related buildings. At the Park Inn site, the rear yard was found to have a highly diverse artifact assemblage dating to the early 20th-century resort period. At the Prospect Inn, foundation remains and water control features were found along with a moderate amount of cultural material related to the resort period and occupations earlier in the 19th century. The Fleischer Hotel site contained several buildings and recreational features associated with the hotel. The foundation was intact. There was a moderate artifact density and diversity. At the Sullivan Diner Site, a well still was present, but the yard areas of this 19th century structure were severely compromised.

## **Maryland**

Reported by: Silas Hurry

### **Statewide**

The Council for Maryland Archeology has created a test web site (<http://www.smcm.edu/academics/soan/cfma>) for members and other interested parties. The Council is the organization for professional archaeologists who practice in the state, and they annually co-sponsor Maryland Archaeology Month. The web site includes links to other organizations, past Maryland Archeology Month posters, and other resources relevant to archaeology in Maryland. The developers would appreciate any comments or suggestions.

### **Baltimore**

The University of Maryland's Center for Heritage Resource Studies (CHRS) announces that the first in a series of three public history workshops was held Thursday, September 9, 2004, at the Hampden Family Center. Bill Harvey was the first workshop speaker. Bill is a native of Hampden, but knew little about its history until he returned in his thirties and began the research that would eventually become his book, "The People is Grass." Bill spoke about the general history of Hampden, and then lead workshop attendants in a discussion of important issues in area history.

These workshops are meant not only to be educational, but are also a part of a CHRS research project. The researchers hope to find out what topics and issues in Hampden history are important to members of the community. This information will be incorporated into the design of an upcoming archaeological project. These workshops are an opportunity for members of the Hampden community to be heard on matters of history and heritage. Hampden and its surrounding neighborhoods play host to a rich and varied historical legacy. The researchers hope to explore that history at these sessions. Each session will begin with brief remarks from a guest speaker, who will then lead a group discussion. The discussion will become the basis for a research design for a public archaeology dig, expected to begin next summer. For more information contact David Gadsby at (410) 227-2578.

## **Virginia**

Reported by: Barbara Heath

### **Historic Mount Vernon**

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

This summer, the Mount Vernon archaeology crew, directed by Esther White and Eleanor Breen, continued excavations of George Washington's distillery (44FX2262). After the development of a preliminary architectural blueprint of

the site this winter, we spent the summer excavating troughs, drains, furnaces, and postholes on the eastern side of the site.

Working our way north from the southeast corner of the building, our excavations began with the more than 60' long trough located outside the building. This trough collected excess water from the distilling process and channeled it back to Dogue Creek. One of our more interesting discoveries was a 6' long piece of wood that we think was part of the cover for the underground wooden trough.

We completed excavating the double furnace in the southeast corner of the building. Two copper whiskey stills rested on top of this double furnace and shared a chimney. Removal of soil layers and destruction debris from the southern furnace exposed an intact three by three and a half foot wide firebox, the floor of which is lined with soot-covered bricks. The walls of the firebox are bricks two courses wide. In front (west) of the opening of the firebox is a two by three foot pit or hearth originally paved with brick. Using period sources, we think that the slaves feeding the fire would have stepped down onto this hearth to obtain better access to the firebox.

Just north and east of the furnace is a rectangular area of heat-altered subsoil. At the beginning of the season, we thought that this feature was a furnace similar to the one just to the south. Excavations revealed that this one does not have physical evidence to suggest its construction type, unlike its partner to the south. The base of the furnace does not have evidence that it was lined with brick, instead it appears that the fire simply occurred on the clay. In fact, it appears that only one of the five furnaces has extant brick masonry. The others can only be identified by burned earth and relationships to surrounding features. Each of these furnaces had nearby drains, which carried water away from the worm tubs after changing the alcohol vapor back to a liquid. These worm drains went through the building foundation and fed into the 60' perimeter drain mentioned above. The sharp and uniform molds of these worm drains suggest they were lined with wood, evidence of which was found in the southernmost drain where it passed under the building.

Esther White and Dennis Pogue continued to meet throughout the summer with the architectural and engineering team planning the reconstruction. Talks centered on floor height, water flow, and other issues crucial to an accurate reconstruction. The project sponsors, the Distilled Spirits Council of the US (DISCUS), has agreed to open the second floor of the distillery as a museum for whiskey history, in addition to interpreting the two bedchambers where the distiller and his assistant would have lived. This decision necessitated the excavation of a 20 by 50 foot area to the north of the current open area to ensure that an extension on the building, housing an elevator and second stair, will not harm any archaeological resources. Thus far, we've encountered two postholes that appear to be related to a fence coming off the northeastern corner of the building.

## **Recent Research at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest**

[Submitted by Randy Lichtenberger and Barbara Heath]

Staff archaeologists at the Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest are currently investigating an extensive Jefferson-era site (Site B) that lies approximately 350ft. southeast of the octagonal dwelling house. The site is covered by a 0.7ft. thick plow zone that contains a dense deposit of domestic artifacts, brick and nails. Pearlware, creamware and coarse lead-glazed earthenwares predominate among the recovered ceramics. A majority of the nail assemblage consists of wrought nails with some early machine-cut nails. A small percentage of mid-nineteenth-century ceramics, most likely from an adjacent antebellum cabin site (Site A), along with a light scatter of twentieth century artifacts intrude the plow zone. Two significant personal items have been recovered from plow zone. The first, a 1789 Spanish silver half real, is pierced to be worn as a charm. Two similar coins have been recovered at Poplar Forest. One was found in the plow zone of nearby Site A, an ante-bellum slave cabin, and the other from Jefferson's "wing of offices" that contained service rooms supporting the main house. In addition, archaeologists have recovered an earthenware pipestem fragment inscribed "good pipe" along its length. The words are written as a series of dots, apparently using a sharp-ended tool.

Archaeologists are still puzzling over the function of several large features discovered immediately below the plow zone. A trench filled with tightly-packed schist stones, stone chips, brick fragments and several wrought nails snakes across the center of an open area excavation measuring 25ft. x 40ft. The trench runs along the interface of two extensive fill deposits, one a reddish-brown clay loam and the other a yellowish-brown clay loam. A 0.5in.-diameter core sample revealed that the fill layers are between 1ft. and 1.5ft. thick and seal a 0.2ft. thick deposit of brown silty loam. Although the trench disappears, or was plowed away, at the southeast end of the excavated block, it continues out of the block at the northwest corner. It is cut by a rectangular deposit of bricks at the apex of one curve and abuts a rectangular quartz gravel deposit at the apex of another.

Site B may relate to one of Jefferson's many plantation buildings, to his ornamental landscape, or contain elements of both. A clue to the site's identity may lie in the presence of an artificial terrace immediately to its west. This terrace, possibly constructed on Jefferson's instructions ca. 1813, appears to cover an earlier domestic site. There are similarities between the terrace fill and the reddish-brown fill at Site B, suggesting that the two episodes are related to a larger landscape plan unaccounted for in the historical record. Ongoing excavation is aimed at discovering the function of the features uncovered and explaining the large-scale earth-moving events that correspond to their creation.

## **Summary of Summer 2004 Field Investigations at Structure #112, New Towne, Jamestown Island**

[Submitted by Andrew S. Veech, Archeologist, Colonial National Historical Park]

Between June and August 2004, Colonial National Historical Park volunteers and students under the direction of National Park Service archaeologist Dr. Andrew Veech conducted circumscribed excavations at Structure #112 on Jamestown Island, James City County, Virginia. This archaeological investigation sought to determine whether or not the forecourt extending from the south-facing (riverfront) façade of Structure #112 had been enclosed by a fence during the 1680s and 1690s. Tangible evidence for such a late-17th-century forecourt enclosure fence at Structure #112 would be a most important find, for it would lend credence to the theory that Structure #112 had served as the final statehouse of the Virginia colony, prior to the 1699 movement of the colonial capital from Jamestown to Williamsburg.

All scholars conversant with Jamestown's colonial architecture acknowledge Structure #112 as a building of great civic and architectural importance. With brick foundations measuring 51' x 33', Structure #112 stands as the largest, single-unit dwelling house yet discovered amongst the buried ruins of 17th-century Jamestown. The structure is also generally recognized as the home for two of the most powerful, influential, and longest-serving 17th-century Virginia governors: Sir John Harvey (in office from 1630-35, 1637-39) and Sir William Berkeley (in office from 1642-52, 1660-1677). The controversy surrounding Structure #112 relates to its potential civic functions during the 1680s and 1690s, namely its possible role as colonial statehouse.

Colonial Virginia's legislative body, the Burgesses, periodically assembled at Jamestown to conduct official business, convening in buildings large enough to house the entire assembly. The Burgesses first convened in 1619 inside the Jamestown church, qualifying that building as Virginia's first statehouse. Three additional Jamestown buildings subsequently served as Virginia's statehouse prior to 1699. However, neither the identity of those three other statehouses nor their respective order of legislative service has been worked out to unanimous scholarly satisfaction, despite years of scrutiny into the matter (e.g., Carson et al. 2004; Kelso & Straube 2004).

Among the many foundations unearthed over the years on Jamestown Island, two hold the strongest likelihood for having been the fourth and final of Jamestown's colonial statehouses (i.e., that serving as statehouse from 1663-98): Structure #112 and Structure #144. Both structures were standing and in use during the period of the fourth statehouse, and the surviving foundations of both conform reasonably to the expected layout of the statehouse's ground floor (derived from period documents). Thus, the task of accurately identifying the final Jamestown statehouse has not been easy, as the physical and documentary evidence pertain-

ing to both Structures #112 and #144 has been suggestive, but not clear cut. A fresh avenue of architectural inquiry into the two structures therefore had to be identified and pursued, so that research into Jamestown's final statehouse could progress. Recently, Dr. Cary Carson of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation identified just such a new research avenue (Carson et al. 2004:93-104)—namely, a balustraded fence of “railes & banisters,” which records indicate was built in 1685 (and repaired in 1691) to enclose the statehouse forecourt. Prior to 2004, no archaeologists had bothered to search for such a balustraded fence, either at Structure #112 or at Structure #144. So, in an effort to resolve Jamestown's final statehouse quandary, archaeologist Andrew Veech (NPS) set out this past June to demonstrate either the presence or absence of a fence enclosing the riverfront yard of Structure #112. The findings of Veech's dig cannot be deemed conclusive. Nevertheless, those findings do increase the likelihood that Structure #112 is, in fact, Jamestown's final statehouse. The onus now rests on Structure #144 to elicit some compelling, new evidence. A concise description of Veech's Summer 2004 excavation at Structure #112 follows.

Structure #112 was initially discovered and excavated by NPS archaeologist Dr. John Cotter in 1954 and 1955 (Cotter 1958:112-121). Cotter's 1958 Jamestown Island base map plots Structure #112, and that entire base map has since been digitized and geo-referenced into Colonial National Historical Park's GIS database. Enlisting the aid of park GIS coordinator Dave Frederick, Veech first relocated the southeast corner of Structure #112 and subsequently relocated the structure's porch tower and southwest corner. Having thus pinpointed several of Structure #112's key reference points, Veech and his crew felt sufficiently oriented to commence their 2004 excavations.

Working on the premise that 17th-century fence lines often stretch from building corners, an initial series of excavation units was extended southward at a 90° angle from the southwest corner of Structure #112. The area south of the southwest corner was selected for initial exploration rather than that south of the southeast corner, because the latter appeared to have heavily disturbed by a drainage ditch, as discerned from the Structure #112 HABS drawing (Cotter 1958:118). Much of the area eventually explored by Veech in 2004 had already been excavated by Cotter in 1954-55 and a Colonial Williamsburg crew in 1993 (Cotter 1958:112-121; Horning & Edwards 2000:51-61). Thus, the standard stratigraphic profile encountered consisted of archaeological backfill underlain by clay subsoil. Once the archaeological backfill was removed from these study areas, the underlying subsoil was carefully troweled to expose any features indicative of an enclosure fence.

A series of aligned fence posthole features were uncovered and mapped by Veech and his crew in Summer 2004, and these postholes very well may be the surviving vestiges of

the “railes & banisters” fence mentioned in the records of 1685/91. Running for a distance of 24' due south from the southwest of Structure #112, excavators uncovered a line of four massive (ca. 24" diameter) postholes, regularly positioned on 8-foot centers. A cross-section of one of these four posts revealed it descending more than 3' into the subsoil and terminating in a shallow basin.

This south-running fenceline, comprised of postholes placed at 8-foot (or approximately 8-foot) centers, continues for more than 100' beyond these initial four large postholes. However, these subsequent postholes pale in comparison to the first four, averaging only 12" to 8" inches in diameter. Upon finally reaching the colonial road (a.k.a., “Back Street”) and the edge of the colonial property lot, this north-south line of smaller diameter postholes abruptly turns eastward and hugs the edge of the road. No large corner post signaled this shift in the fence's orientation. Postholes comprising this east-west, street-front fence line appear neither as straight nor as regularly spaced as the postholes comprising the north-south fence line extending from the southwest corner of Structure #112. Nonetheless, these east-west postholes, too, measure between 8" and 12" in diameter and are spaced at roughly 8-foot centers.

Subsequent excavations extending south from the southeast corner of Structure #112 exposed a second line of four massive (ca. 24"-diameter) postholes on 8-foot centers, extending 24' from the structure's corner and precisely mirroring the posthole alignment found extending 24' south from the structure's southwest corner. While not irrefutable, these two parallel fence lines are the best evidence found to date of the “railes & banisters” associated with Jamestown's last statehouse. The lack of an archaeologically obvious east-west cross fence, running 51' feet across the length of Structure #112 to connect these two fence segments is troubling, and forces a cautious appraisal of these new archaeological discoveries. But until the time when equal or better fencing evidence arises at Structure #144, the weight of evidence for the final statehouse now seems to rest with Structure #112.

Two other notable finds also came to light in the Structure #112 re-investigation of Summer 2004. Firstly, a definitive line of north-south-running structural posts was traced and plotted just east of the H-shaped hearth of Structure #158. These posts represent the eastern exterior wall of Structure #158, which some scholars reason to be Governor Berkeley's “private apartment.” Secondly, a 44-inch diameter, brick-lined well was discovered about 10 feet south-southwest of the southwest corner of Structure #112's porch tower. The upper 5 feet of this well was tested, and the recovered artifacts suggest a fourth quarter of the 17th century in-filling. Perhaps this well (a.k.a., Structure #174) was in-filled in 1677 or 1678, following the destruction of Structure #112 by Nathaniel Bacon.

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## West Virginia

Reported by: William D. Updike

### Greenbrier Valley West Virginia Frontier Fort Project

In 2004, Drs. Kim A. McBride and W. Stephen McBride of the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, University of Kentucky, continued their ongoing archaeological research of eighteenth century frontier sites in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia. This year they focused on the Col. James Graham house in Summers County and the Fort Donnally site in Greenbrier County. This project is funded by West Virginia Budget Digest Funds awarded to the Summers County Historic Landmarks Commission.

At the standing Graham log house, which was built ca. 1770 and operated by the Graham House Foundation, archaeological survey and testing was conducted with the assistance of Dr. Robert Maslowski's Concord College class. The most interesting discoveries of these investigations were an intact late eighteenth to early nineteenth century midden and a cellar in the present front yard. These discoveries suggest a shift in house orientation during the early or middle nineteenth century. Robert Ball of the University of Kentucky Historic Preservation Program is completing his masters thesis on this project.

The investigations at Fort Donnally (built in 1774) focused

on a possible stone foundation that had been exposed by cattle the previous winter. Excavation of the exposed stones showed this feature to be a large double limestone chimney foundation. This configuration matched those historic documents that described this structure as a double log house/kitchen with a central chimney. Since documents also suggested that the house/kitchen made up part of the stockade wall we searched for evidence of a stockade trench about forty feet south of the chimney and were successful. We plan to further investigate the Fort Donnally structures and stockade in 2005.

## Newfoundland

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

### Placentia

[Submitted by Amanda Crompton]

From 1662 to 1713, Placentia (then Plaisance) was the largest French settlement in Newfoundland, and served as their administrative and military center. In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht ceded Plaisance to the English, and almost all French residents left the settlement; many settlers from Plaisance re-located to Île Royale (Nova Scotia). Since 2001, the Placentia Uncovered Archaeology Project has concentrated on identifying and excavating sites dating to the French period in Placentia.

In 2004, excavations directed by Amanda Crompton (Ph.D. student, Memorial University of Newfoundland) continued at the Vieux Fort site, located on Mount Pleasant in Placentia. This site was the location of the first French fort constructed in Plaisance, and dates to the early period of the French occupation—from 1662 to ca. 1685-90. For the fourth consecutive season, excavations continued at a large (approximately 20 meters long by 7 meters wide) stone structure. The structure was constructed of dry-laid stone, and was divided into two rooms by an internal stone wall. The ceramic assemblage consists largely of cooking, storage, and service vessels, indicating that this structure probably functioned as a residence for soldiers at the fort. Excavations this year focused on locating the northern wall of the structure, and uncovered a stone and brick chimney feature associated with this wall. Excavation beside and below the stone hearth revealed traces of an older brick chimney base that was destroyed before the upper one was constructed. This earlier chimney feature was constructed at a different orientation than the stone structure above it, suggesting the existence of an earlier structure on site. All of the artifacts found this year are consistent with a later seventeenth-century French occupation; artifact analysis is ongoing at this time.

Other excavation work in Placentia was undertaken at the Mount Pleasant Knoll site, directed by Catherine Murphy (M.A. student, Memorial University of Newfoundland). This site is the suspected location of the French Governor Parat's residence, occupied briefly near the end of the seventeenth

century. A map of 1687 shows the governor's residence, though provides little other information concerning the location of the building. Historic records document that Parat's residence was destroyed in 1690 by an English raiding party from Ferryland. The Knoll site was selected for excavation based on the similarity between modern topography and the shoreline indicated on the 1687 map. Excavations in 2001 and 2002 located a late seventeenth-century French context, and excavations in 2004 expanded our sample of material culture and structural information. This year's excavations have demonstrated that the site was occupied by a wooden building destroyed by fire. Though analysis of the assemblage is only in initial stages, the assemblage is clearly of a domestic household nature. Further artifact analysis and archival research will hopefully substantiate the link between this site and Governor Parat's residence.

This community-based archaeology project is an initiative of the Placentia Heritage Advisory Committee. It has obtained funds and support from a variety of sources, which are gratefully acknowledged here: Human Resources Development Canada, the Institute of Social and Economic Research and the Newfoundland Archaeological Heritage Outreach Program (both of Memorial University), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Additionally, the Town of Placentia and the Placentia Area Historical Society have provided in-kind support.

### **Nova Scotia**

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

#### **Portobello Inclined Plane on the Shubenacadie Canal**

[Submitted by April MacIntyre]

Over the past year, Davis Archaeological Consultants (DAC) Limited has conducted an archaeological assessment of the Portobello region of the Shubenacadie Canal. The highlight of the Portobello area is the inclined marine railway which was completed in 1858 and modeled according to plans for marine railways on the Morris Canal in New Jersey. The inclined plane was designed to transport ships over land. In order to power the cradle which was needed to transport the vessels, a water-powered Scotch turbine was built. In spite of the financial cost and elaborate planning that must have been required for this portion of the canal, no plans have survived to document the infrastructure. It was the archaeologists' job to locate the turbine and assess the possible impact by proposed construction on nearby archaeological features. A crew consisting of past and current Saint Mary's University students had the opportunity to excavate portions of the archaeological features at Portobello and also consulted with canal experts throughout North America and the United Kingdom. In August 2004, the Portobello site was visited by Mr. Bob Barth, President of the Canal Society of

New Jersey.

Field investigations began with digitally mapping a  $\_ km^2$  section of the canal at Portobello, which produced the first scaled reproduction of this area. Several unique features of the Shubenacadie Canal were recorded during this exercise. Work continues at the site, with the current focus being on locating the Scotch turbine which powered the incline. In July, a crew excavated a circular drain built into the base of a dam which canal experts in the U.S. and the UK could not identify. It is suspected that the drain is related to the operation of the turbine. However, no definitive evidence for the association between the drain and the turbine was found. Future efforts to locate the turbine will include a proton magnetometry survey scheduled for September 2004.

On a separate note, DAC's senior technician, April MacIntyre, will be participating in an exciting project throughout the remainder of 2004 and 2005 called Techsploration. Techsploration is a non-profit program that puts junior-high school girls in touch with successful females in science, trades, and technology-based careers. The goal of the program is to increase the number of women in these fields by allowing young women the opportunity to explore a wide-variety of careers through hands-on learning and work-place visitation with a role-model.

### **Prince Edward Island**

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

#### **Greenwich, Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada**

Work continued this summer on the inventory of 18th-century French farm sites on the north shore of St. Peters Bay, Greenwich, PEI National Park. The survey was directed by Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada, assisted by Scott Buchanan, with volunteer Michael Smallwood.

St. Peters Bay was the site of Havre Saint-Pierre, a fishing and farming community dating to 1720-1758. The area now known as Greenwich was home to the Oudy family. The 1752 survey of Ile Saint Jean (Prince Edward Island) by the Sieur de la Rocque lists seven farms along this shore owned by Jacques Oudy and Marguerite Saulnier and at least six of their sons and daughters. Two other farms may have been established here before the family was removed in the deportation of French people from the island in 1758. A surveyor's plan of the area ca. 1764 indicates nine farms.

A geophysical survey, using the Geonics EM-38, collected data from an area approximately 25,000 meters square. This, added to the previous years' surveys, now covers close to 2 km of shoreline to a minimum of 50 m inland. Prior to this year's work, three farm sites had been confirmed and another three suggested. Analysis of the new data is in progress.

As a compliment to the EM-38 data, a ground-penetrating radar survey was conducted over an area of 25x30 m. The

area selected had given a very clear indication of a complex farmyard area, and testing had confirmed the presence of at least one cellar. Radar work was carried out by Atlantic Infrastructure Monitoring of Nova Scotia. Results are pending.

Work was completed on a large circular stone feature eroding from the shoreline. The feature is a well. Although 3 m wide at the top, it gradually tapers to a more usual diameter of just under 1 m at the bottom. There was no evident cultural deposit from the French period at the bottom of the well. It had been filled in shortly after British re-settlement of the area around 1760. Burnt timbers from the French structures were thrown in first, followed by a number of large rocks. After this had settled for a number of years, a second layer of rocks was thrown in to top up the well.

Flotation samples from within the well were taken at various depths. These will be analysed for organic components.