

On May 1st NYAC held its spring meeting in Watertown in conjunction with NYSAA's annual conference.

Our speaker was Kristen McMasters of the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). She spoke about the importance of community stewardship and the availability of grants for documenting and interpreting battlefields. We were very happy she accepted our invitation to speak. For more information on the ABPP you may contact Kristen (Kristen_mcmasters@nps.gov).

Every year NYAC would like to give the Founder's Award to an individual who has made great contributions to New York Archaeology. This year the award went to Karen Hartgen. Her nomination was prepared by Matt Kirk. This year's Student Award went to Ammie Mitchell from the University at Buffalo. We congratulate both of them.

The NYAC business meeting was busy. Longtime board members Hope Luhman, Ed Curtin, and Ellie McDowell-Loudan stepped down at the end of their terms. We extend our warmest thanks to them for serving with distinction. Dirk Marcucci was re-elected vice-president and Stephanie Roberg-Lopez was re-elected to the board. We welcome three new board members, David Staley, Daria Merwin, and Nina Versaggi. We are delighted that Nina has returned to the board. We have six new members, including David Witt, David Moyer, Sarah Kautz, Michael Lucas, Elizabeth Selig, and Glen Kolyer. We hope they will become active in the organization.

The Consultant's page was renamed Practicing Archaeologists of New York State and officially launched. Any full members of NYAC can have their information posted on the page as long as their dues are up to date. Please remember that if you claim RPA certification those dues must also be current. NYAC voted to be an affiliated member of the RPA. This required an amendment to the by-laws. This affiliation means that any of our members may become RPA members at a reduced rate of \$45 per year. The affiliation also means that the RPA will undertake legal action on our behalf in certain cases such as ethical violations. Related to joining the RPA, an ad hoc committee was formed to review our current by-laws and update them. For further information you may contact me (pipesml@aol.com) or Christina Rieth (crieth@albany.edu).

The fall program will be the first of a two part event involving collections management issues. The second part will take place next spring. Collections management is a growing concern for many of us, especially in light of culling policies, de-accessioning collections, and financing long-term storage. An ad hoc committee was formed to prepare the program which includes Doug Perrelli, Stephanie Roberg-Lopez, Hope Luhman, and Michael Lucas. If you have suggestions for the committee, please contact Doug (perrelli@buffalo.edu) or Stephanie (roberg@sunydutchess.edu).

In an effort to improve our communication with the membership we have created a distribution list through our website (http://medicalartswebdesign.com/nyac/). If you change your email address you may update it on that page. Also, if you know someone not getting the newsletter and other notices, please point them in that direction.

This year's archaeology poster was created by Chrysalis of New York City. NYAC thanks them for putting together a beautiful poster. Copies are available through the New York State Museum for free by contacting Christina Rieth. We hope everyone will help us distribute them.

NYAC would like to extend its warmest thanks to Tim Abel and the Thousand Islands Chapter for making the arrangements on our behalf. Everyone was helpful and friendly, making for a very pleasant meeting.

NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY PROGRAM AT THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Fort Edward Data Recovery and Monitoring Project

The last NYAC Newsletter (Fall 2014) included a summary write-up of the Fort Edward Village site documented by CRSP during construction monitoring and data recovery excavations along Broadway (US Route 4) in the village of Fort Edward. This work was part of the NYS DOT's reconstruction of the street with the utilities below it in 2006 and 2007. The village site, confined to the width of the street and sidewalks, stretches along 620 meters of the lower part of the village where deposits and features associated with three main periods of occupation were encountered: prehistoric, mid-eighteenth-century military, and nineteenth-century village settlement and growth.

Two other archaeological sites with the presence of significant nineteenth-century subsurface features and deposits were also identified along the project route, both geographically separated from the Fort Edward Village site. One is the Fort Edward Feeder Canal Bridge site and the other is the Hilfinger Pottery site.

The Fort Edward Feeder Canal Bridge Site

Where the project route crosses the former Fort Edward feeder, DOT's construction activities provided archaeologists several opportunities to look for cultural resources associated with the previously unexplored canal and bridge location. These amounted to monitoring the mechanical excavation of five deep, narrow utility trenches that mostly ran north-south within the driving lanes of the street in that location. Today, as one travels along Broadway up or down Fort Edward Hill, they'll encounter no visible evidence of the more than 40 foot-wide canal and its bordering tow path that for over 100 years passed below the street at that location.

Broadway follows the eighteenth-century military route north from the French and Indian War fort location where, in the early nineteenth century (1806), it became part of the Waterford and Whitehall Turnpike, the initial thread for Fort Edward's expansion in the nineteenth century. When soon after the state followed by opening the Champlain Canal through the village (ca. 1819), it also built the Fort Edward Feeder Canal in the north part of the village to bring Hudson River water east to the Champlain Canal. Since the feeder was a navigable channel, a bridge was required to carry Broadway high above it.

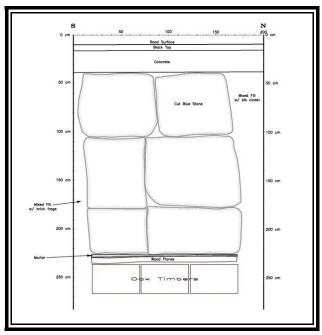


Detail of the 1875 Bird's Eye View of Fort Edward (Baily) showing the feeder canal as it ran along the north side of the mill yard. The Broadway Bridge is highlighted.

The study of this site involved extensive research of the feeder's history, which illuminated its dimensions and construction techniques, its inadequacy to provide enough water to the main channel of the canal, its illegal use for water power to the mills along its south side in the 1830s followed by its eventual purchase by a local milling cooperative in the 1840s, and its use for shipping goods to and from the main canal further east. Quite a bit of historical information was revealed about the evolution of Broadway's bridge over the feeder and the modes of transportation that utilized the bridge through the course of its history. This included establishment of a horse-drawn trolley line in the 1880s that converted to electricity in 1891 requiring work to strengthen the bridge and tracks in support of the extra weight of the electric cars. Much of this history came from local newspaper articles reporting frequent accidents involving horse and wagon collisions with the bridge trusses as they came down the hill, people falling off or through the bridge, crowding of traffic by the trolley line, and automobile accidents caused by the curving intersection of the original alignment of Broadway (now Terrace Place) with the bridge combined with its steep approach from the south.

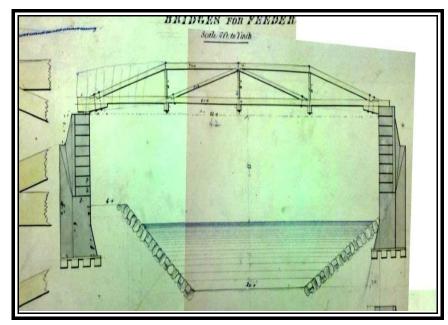
With the opening of the Barge Canal terminal in the Hudson opposite Roger's Island in the early twentieth century, the feeder was no longer necessary for transportation of goods to and from the International Paper Mill that had grown to supersede all the other mills at the mill yard. This finally allowed for the bridge's removal, and the canal's filling, ca. 1926, to reduce the chronic maintenance and traffic safety challenges they caused.

Later in the late-1930s the street was straightened and widened with the removal of buildings near the bridge approaches, and the grade lowered and the realignment of the main route up what was known as West Broadway. At that point virtually all evidence of the former canal and bridge were obliterated.



Profile, roughly to scale, of the cut stone south bridge abutment with oak timbers and planking at the bottom.

The most prominent feature that archaeologists observed while monitoring construction is the original southern bridge abutment of cut stone masonry at least 25 feet wide with two angled wing walls measuring at least 10 feet long each. This would have supported a bridge no more than 25 feet wide corresponding with the original street width. Utility construction underneath the street required trenching through this abutment below its bottom, revealing that the large stone masonry was originally laid on a wooden platform base made of oak timbers with flat planks on top. This construction technique is detailed in 1854 engineer's plans for canal bridges over feeders.



Detail of an 1854 Engineer and Surveyor plan for typical feeder bridges in the Eastern Division of the canal system (New York State Archives and Manuscripts).

Also found during construction was subsurface evidence of the electric trolley line in the form of a massive poured concrete wall in the probable location of the north bridge abutment, and the probable foundation remains of the Carpenter Block building that once stood near the south approach to the bridge. These were found in the construction trench of a new natural gas line that ran up the east parking lane of the street through the former bridge location. The poured concrete wall, found just below the layers of road pavement, was oriented east-west and was several feet thick where it crossed the construction trench. This was interpreted as a probable reinforcement of the abutment to accommodate the weight of the electric trolley cars that crossed the bridge. Wooden trolley ties were also seen just under the pavement surface. The Carpenter Block building became a traffic hazard by blocking the view of the highway to northbound motorists and, therefore, was demolished in 1926 around the time the bridge was removed.

The site is significant for several reasons. First, it is associated with the Old Champlain Canal that passed east of Broadway in the nineteenth century. While this feeder canal was privately owned for much of its use, the construction techniques uncovered during the monitored utility excavations were consistent with those used in the greater New York State canal system. Second, significance is associated with the fact that this former feeder-turned private branch of the canal played an important role in the development of Fort Edward's economy. From the mid-nineteenth century to the early-twentieth century the feeder shipped many different products to and from the complex of mills that developed along its south side. These included stoneware pottery, clothing, iron, furniture, lumber, and paper products. Third, the site documents some of the changes through time in the landscape of the road and bridge that resulted from technological advances in modes of transportation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Hilfinger Pottery Site

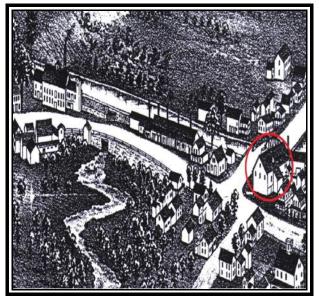


Modern aerial showing the Hilfinger Pottery site location and construction locations where pottery-related waste was found (marked in red).

The village became a notable stoneware manufacturing center in the mid-nineteenth century with the establishment in the 1850s and 1860s of two potteries at the mill yard complex along the feeder canal in the north part of the village. The site of Hilfinger Pottery, however, was unique in that it was built south of the village away from the mill yard and its source of water power. Instead, it was situated along the main line of the Champlain Canal and used steam and horse power. It was first built and run in the 1870s by Andrew K. Haxstun and G. S. Guy, manufacturers of stoneware goods. In the early 1890s the property was bought out by a local family, the four Hilfinger brothers, who had already been producing red earthenware goods as a family cottage business behind their house on East Street. When their small business burned in 1892 they took over the large stoneware works in the south part of the village and continued to manufacture both stoneware goods, such as jugs, pots, crocks, churns, bowls, pitchers, chamber pots, water kegs, and umbrella stands, and red earthenware flower pots, drain tiles, and sewer piping.

The stoneware line ceased production around 1905 but they continued making red earthenware, especially flower pots, with mass production after World War I. Youngest brother

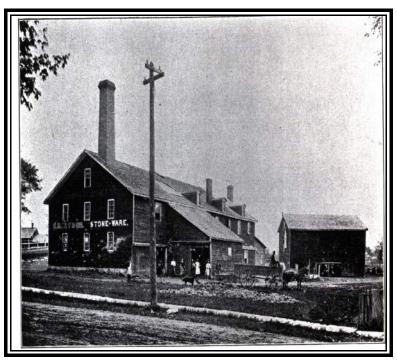
Fred Hilfinger is attributed with having invented a machine enabling them to produce up to 5,000 flower pots a day. A single kiln firing at the pottery could involve as many as 150,000 flowerpots at one time. They also continued to make fancy urns, lawn vases, bird baths, and other lawn and garden wares in addition to sewer piping and drain tiles. Hilfinger Pottery remained in operation until 1942 under the management of Rupert Hilfinger's son Howard, who had worked there since he was a child. After 1942, upkeep of the property became too excessive and the remaining family members decided to close the business. The structure remained standing until 1954.



Detail of the 1892 bird's eye view of Fort Edward showing the Haxstun and Guy pottery around the time the Hilfinger brothers bought it (Burleigh Lithograph Co.).

Highway reconstruction efforts in 2006 provided an opportunity to archaeologically examine the site, now occupied by a modern ranch-style house and yard, by monitoring construction of utility trenches on the periphery of the lot. It also allowed discovery of some off-site locations of dumped industrial waste directly linked to this pottery. The industrial waste included stoneware wasters and kiln furniture, objects from the early Haxstun & Co. operation, and a large waster deposit of red clay flowerpots from the later Hilfinger operation. It also revealed places in the village where red earthenware drainage tiles (pipes) were used as under-curb drains, these being one of the products made at Hilfinger Pottery. This site is significant for its contribution to the industrial economy of the area and because it was one of the few major nineteenth-century Fort Edward pottery buildings that survived well into the twentieth century.

Submitted by: Nancy Davis



Hilfinger Pottery in the early 1890s (Courtesy of the Fort Edward Historical Association).



Hilfinger Pottery workers holding small flower pots ready for shipping, date unknown (Courtesy of the Fort Edward Historical Association).



View of the flowerpot waster dump mixed with ashes in a sewer line construction trench at the rear of the Hilfinger Pottery site lot.



Flower pots melted together during firing found in the waster dump behind the Hilfinger Pottery.



Stoneware kiln furniture (stackers and handle props) likely from the period Haxstun and Guy ran the pottery.



Salt-glazed stoneware crock sherds found at the site with the Haxstun & Co./Fort Edward Stoneware Co. mark.

NEWS FROM CURTIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING, INC.

Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. has completed fieldwork for the Phase 3 data recovery project conducted for the Cramer Road North subdivision in the Town of Malta, Saratoga County. Fieldwork was conducted at the Esmond 1 and 2 sites. Analysis has just begun. The Esmond 1 site is a low artifact density area that appears to have been used with low intensity over a long span of the Archaic and Woodland periods. A recovered projectile point has been tentatively identified as a Neville type stemmed point. In addition, a Meadowood point was identified during the Phase 2 survey. The Esmond 2 site is one among a complex of sites associated with small drainages in Malta, New York where evidence of Meadowood occupation is recurrent. Esmond 2 appears to be a large Meadowood settlement featuring heavy use of eastern Onondaga chert. In addition, a small number of other points and bifaces using local chert such as Normanskill were identified. The ceramic assemblage is diverse and requires detailed analysis to understand in the context of a lithic assemblage dominated by Meadowood technology. However, at least some of the ceramics would not be out of place in an assemblage such as those from the 1st millennium B.C. levels at the Faucett site in the Delaware valley, where Meadowood appears to be oddly juxtaposed to local ceramic and lithic traditions. Analysis of the Esmond 2 site appears to be a good context in which to further explore the concept of a Meadowood Interaction Sphere.

In other news, Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. has updatd its website, which is now found at www.curtinarch.com. This change was spurred by a computer glitch that took down our blog, *Fieldnotes*. However, we continue to post new articles in *Fieldnotes* on our new site. Upcoming posts will include a review of *The Roundhouse* by Louise Erdrich, and posts on our Phase 3 archaeological mitigation projects at SUNY Cobleskill, Fountain Flats Park in Coxsackie, and the Cramer Road North subdivision in Malta. In addition, old articles will be reposted depending upon their importance and how much people liked them the first time around; or to reconnect to series such as human effects upon the forest, the Archaic period, and history and archaeology in upstate communities. In addition, all of these series will be continuing with new articles.

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

The Community Archaeology Program

This summer, the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) will conducted its 20th Community Archaeology Program (CAP). The week-long programs involve classroom, lab, and field instruction. CAP excavations will take place at the Campville Boland site, a proposed topsoil mine on the Susquehanna River in Owego. The site has evidence of use from the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods. Phase I and II investigations identified chipped and rough stone artifacts, steatite, pottery, fire-cracked rock, and cultural features.



Adults will begin their week with classroom and laboratory instruction at Binghamton University. For most of the week, however, adults will be in the field excavating under the supervision of PAF staff. In addition to facility tours, classroom activities, and fieldwork at Campville Boland, students in the Teen program will participate in experimental archaeology, in-depth survey and mapping techniques, and other activities tailored for this age-group. Students in the Kids program learn about the science of archaeology through handson, interactive classroom projects, laboratory tours, outdoor activities, and visits to Campville Boland.

For information about our July 2015 CAP program, please check our website at http://cap.binghamton.edu/.

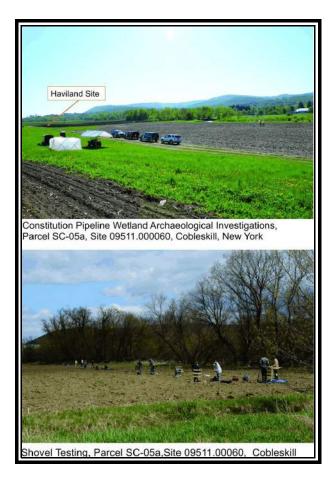


NEWS FROM LANDMARK ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

Landmark Archaeology, Inc. conducted a series of archaeological investigations in 2013 and 2014 in New York and Pennsylvania for the 124-mile Constitution pipeline project. These investigations, ranging from 0.72 to 58.5 acres, were located in a variety of environmental and landform settings being considered for wetland mitigation. Much of the work was within the Schoharie Creek and Susquehanna River Drainages following areas along the I-88 corridor. A total of 12 parcels within New York and two in northeastern Pennsylvania were investigated.

The archaeological investigations identified two prehistoric sites and reexamined six previously recorded sites. The prehistoric sites ranged from small surface flake scatters to large multi-acre, semi-permanent habitations that yielded evidence of buried features and possible houses.

One of the proposed wetland mitigation areas (Parcel SC-05a) included a 45-acre parcel within the floodplain of Cobleskill Creek just west of the town of Cobleskill. The shallowly buried Early Archaic Haviland site is located within the project area. Dr. John Ferguson began investigations at the Haviland site in 1992. Dr. Ferguson conducted the first field school at the site in 1994 and then it was continued under Louise Basa through 2001. Ferguson published his initial findings at the Haviland site in the Bulletin of the NYSAA (Ferguson 1995). Excavations yielded bifurcate points that are morphologically similar to Kanawha points, dating ca 8,000 BP. Dr. Robert Funk worked at the site as did Dr. Julieann Van Nest, Fred Stevens, and others. excavations were made under a cooperative agreement between the Iroquois Museum and The State University of New York at Cobleskill and its Faculty Student Association. For the past two and a half decades the Haviland site has been cultivated and used as farm land by SUNY-Cobleskill.



In addition to the Haviland site, Phase I and II archaeological investigations conducted in 2014 at Parcel SC-05a identified a number of prehistoric loci on the floodplain, grouped together as Site 09511.000060. Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered during investigations included projectile points from the Late Archaic and Middle Woodland/Late Woodland cultural periods: a Brewerton Side-notched projectile point (2980-1723 B.C.), Snook Kill points (1800-1400 B.C.), a Genesee-like point (3000-1500 B.C.), and a Jack's Reef Corner-notched point (A.D. 500-1000). Shovel and auger testing and the excavation of 1 x 1-meter test units documented that the floodplain contained Holocene alluvium covering a chert-rich fluvial gravel bar. The undulating gravel bar is exposed on the plowed surface in some locations and buried in other areas. As a result, early occupations such as the Haviland site can be at or near the surface while later occupations can be buried in alluvium beneath the reach of the plow.

Landmark's work at Site 09511.000060 supports Louise Basa and Dr. Van Nest's geoarchaeological interpretation of the floodplain which dates the formation of the gravel bar at ca 10,200 RCYBP (Basa and Van Nest 2004). The setting was favored throughout much of New York's prehistory as a location to acquire and manufacture tool preforms from high quality Esopus chert. Across the floodplain, variation in the Holocene alluvium was found to range from near surface to over one 1 m in thickness. Large numbers of chert debitage, hammerstones, tested and exhausted cores, and broken bifaces indicate that tool manufacturing was conducted at this location for thousands of years.

References

Basa, Louise and Julieann Van Nest

New Data on the Haviland Site: An Early Archaic Workshop in Schoharie County, New York. Paper presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, April 1, 2004.

Ferguson, John P.

1995 The Haviland Site: The Early Archaic in Schoharie County. The Bulletin of the New York State Archaeological Association, 110:1-15.

Submitted by: Dirk Marcucci



NEWS FROM THE ROBERT E. FUNK MEMORIAL ARCHAEOLOGY FOUNDATION, INC.

Pursuant to our recent request for proposals, the Funk Foundation has received five grant proposals to review for the grant award date of May 31, 2015. One grant will be awarded in this round. We will also initiate a second 2015 grant cycle with a fall review period. At this time we anticipate a proposal deadline of October 15, 2015 and an award deadline of December 15, 2015. Additional information or changes will be posted on the Funk Foundation website at www.funkfoundation.org.

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

NYAC ANNUAL AWARDS

Two individuals were presented with awards at the Spring 2015 NYAC meetings in Watertown. Ammie Mitchell won the NYAC student paper award for her paper entitled *The Symbolism of Coarse-Crystalline Temper in Early Pottery: A Fabric Typology for New York State*. She received a certificate and a check for \$250. Karen Hartgen received the NYAC Founder's Award. Matt Kirk wrote her nomination letter.

Karen Hartgen, Founder's Award

Karen is well deserving of the award as she has been a leader in the development of CRM as a profession in New York. More importantly, however, I can point to her commitment to the protection, preservation, and promotion of the state's archeological resources over the past several decades.

Her distinguished career in professional archeology started in 1973, shortly after the adoption and wide-scale application of federal historic preservation law. As such, she was at the forefront of shaping and determining the future of what would become known as Cultural Resource Management. Karen leveraged her expertise and recent experience in salvage work into a professional services company that she named Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.

Among her many professional accomplishments:

The Marcy-South project for New York Power Authority (NYPA) conducted in the early 1980s. Karen managed the survey of a major transmission line through central New York which resulted in the identification of several major archeological sites including the Ouleout Site, and established a decades-long professional relationship with NYPA.

Numerous excavations in the Waterford area that included the location and subsequent repatriation of several Native American burials.

The Lower Saranac Hydroelectric Project in 1990, led to the earliest radiocarbon date in northern NY state and discovery of several Plano points.

The Tweed Courthouse Project in New York City resulted in the recovery of numerous human remains associated with the disturbed almshouse cemetery in the area.

The Papscanee Island and Raritan Landing projects documented several important archeological sites, including the only Mahican village in the Hudson Valley. But more importantly, these projects demonstrated Karen's willingness and ability to work collaboratively with other CRM firms.

Last but not least, Karen was responsible for developing an incredible database and sets of collections (now housed at the NYSM), of important colonial sites from downtown Albany. Her work in Albany did not come easily however. As a consultant for DASNY in 1996, Karen objected to the authority's insistence on shorting the time, money, and effort that archeologists could expend documenting the site. As a result, Karen quit the project and subsequently helped to lead NYAC's efforts to force the authority to comply with Section 14.09 through the court system.

In addition to her time as NYAC president between 1994 and 1996, Karen served on many different, professional, preservation, and educational boards.

In all, Karen directed and managed nearly 3,000 CRM projects including over 150 Phase III data recovery projects, many within New York. Needless to say, Hartgen's corporate legacy in terms of the management of archeological resources in the state is indelible.

(Excerpted from nomination letter by Matt Kirk)

NYAC NEWSLETTER

For the Fall 2015 newsletter, please submit by October 15.

Submit news in either Word or WordPerfect to Laurie Miroff by email at lmiroff@binghamton.edu.

Note: please submit photos as .jpg files.

NOTE: If you change your email address or would like the newsletter sent to another email address, please forward the address to me. Also, if you currently receive the letter as a hard copy and would like to begin receiving it by email, please forward your address.