

## Fall 2007

### Special points of interest:

- December 1st the New York State Museum will hold a colloquium in honor of Charles (Chuck) L. Fisher
- The Society for Historical Archaeology meeting will held in Albuquerque, NM January 9-13th, 2008. For more information visit: <http://sha.org/about/conferences/2008.htm>
- Final Notice The 2007 ESAF meeting will be Nov. 8-11 in Burlington, VT. Cara Lisa Sargent, [cara.sargent@aya.yale.edu](mailto:cara.sargent@aya.yale.edu), Arrangements Chair, John Crock, [john.crock@uvm.edu](mailto:john.crock@uvm.edu), Program Chair.

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### Features:

- Archaeological Investigations of British Military life on Carleton Island, 1778-84, By Douglas J. Pippin
- Information on New York State Council for the Humanities Speaker Series.
- Exhibits
- Chapter Meetings
- Book News
- Awards Deadlines

# NYSAA Newsletter



## Summary of the NYSAA Fall Executive Committee Meeting in Syracuse, October 20th, 2007

The fall meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at Sainte Marie among the Iroquois visitor's center in Liverpool, Onondaga County. In all, nineteen representatives attended the meeting from ten chapters. After brief welcoming comments by NYSAA President Bill Engelbrecht, chapter representatives were invited to present a brief report on the chapter activities, memberships and concerns.

Fred Assmus of the Orange County Chapter introduced the New York Council for the Humanities' *Speakers in the Humanities Program* (see page 5). This program is available to not-for-profit organizations, bringing lecturers to these organizations.

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in Syracuse and is being co-hosted by the Beauchamp and Thousand Islands Chapters. Tim Abel of the Thousand Island Chapter is in charge of the program. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jose Antonio Brandão, author of "Your Fyre Shall Burn No More." The 2009 meeting will be hosted by the Morgan Chapter. No details are available yet.

A call for papers for the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of ESAF was distributed. The meeting will be held in Lockport, NY and is being hosted by NYSAA. Program chair is Lisa Marie Anselmi ([anselmlm@buffalostate.edu](mailto:anselmlm@buffalostate.edu)). This is a great opportunity for NYSAA members in western New York State to see what our membership in this organization is all about.

Amendments passed in 2002 and 2006 have been added to the Constitution/By-laws. The 2002 amendment to the constitution included creation of the offices of Recording and Corresponding Secretaries. The amendments to the by-laws adopted in 2002 pertain to the each chapter and each member of the Association receiving a copy of *The Bulletin* (Bulletin substituting "each publication") and a description of the duties of the offices of Recording and Corresponding Secretaries. The 2006 amendments to the By-Laws dictate the Executive Committee to conduct business of the Association by phone, fax, email or other electronic means as agreed by the Committee and also allows the Committee to appoint liaisons to organizations. These amendments to the constitution and by-laws have been incorporated into the document and will appear in the 2008 handbook.

Elections are coming up – Dr. Martha Sempkowski is nominating committee chair. She can be contacted at [msempowski@frontiernet.net](mailto:msempowski@frontiernet.net) or (585) 271-4320, ext. 368 for nominations or if you are interested in running for association office.

## Archaeological Investigations of British Military life on Carleton Island, 1778-84,



Figure 1 - 1905 postcard illustrating several chimneys from Fort Haldimand. The two in the foreground are still standing today, but have deteriorated to approximately one-third the size shown here.

Figure 2 – Main trench excavation across the barrack. The darkened area at the back of the trench cuts across the interior of the cabin.



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(continued from page 1) Charles Hayes III reported that *The Bulletin* Numbers 123 and 124 are in process of being edited. A major effort has been made to begin the editorial process for Volume 18 of the *Researches and Transactions*. The volume will consist of 2 parts; No. 1 “The Maspeth Site” by Stanley H Wisniewski and Ralph Solecki and No.2 “The Archery Range Site” by Edward J. Kaeser.

The minutes of the General Business Meeting held on April 20, 2007 at Saratoga Springs were passed and will be published in the next Bulletin.

It was voted to join the Council of Affiliated Societies for one year. This membership will entitle NYSAA to the CAS newsletters and the opportunity to display literature at the SAA meetings.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting will be provided at a later date. Thanks to the Beauchamp Chapter for arranging to have the meeting at Sainte Marie among the Iroquois and for providing refreshments.

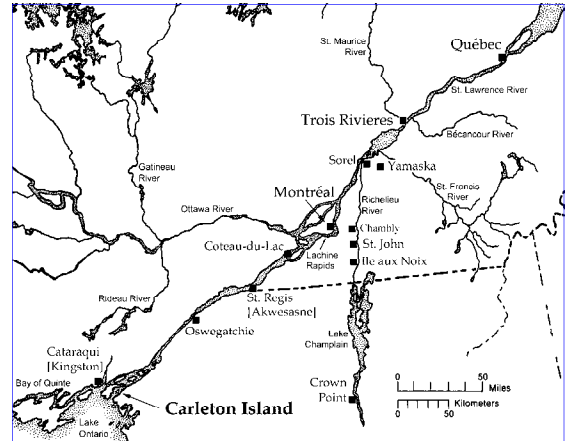
Respectfully submitted by Lori Blair, NYSAA Recording Secretary

## Archaeological Investigations of British Military life on Carleton Island, 1778-84

By Douglas J. Pippin  
Morgan Chapter, SUNY Oswego

In the late eighteenth century, the British outpost on Carleton Island was an integral connection between the cities of Montréal and Québec and frontier posts farther to the west. The diverse activity on the island included a fortification, naval base and shipyard, as well as Loyalist and Indian refugee settlements. Archaeological excavations at the fortification, Fort Haldimand, have uncovered materials related to the life of British soldiers posted on the frontier. The investigation of a soldier's cabin has revealed information about the state of their barracks, efficiency of the provisioning system and availability of market goods. Among the principle inhabitants of this cabin were soldiers of the First Battalion, 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, or Royal Highland Emigrants.

Carleton Island is situated at the head of the St. Lawrence River in the Thousand Islands, two miles from Cape Vincent, NY. The fort is positioned atop a sixty-foot bluff at the west end of the island and is underlain by beds of Trenton limestone. The most striking feature of the fortification today is the moat, approximately 20 feet wide, 6 feet deep, and several hundred yards long. The edge of the bluff forms one long irregular side of the fort on the west elevation, while the moat forms the other three sides. Proportionally, the three sides are three-eighths of an octagon. At the midpoint in each of the moat's three sides, a bastion projects out from the wall to allow placement for the fort's artillery. The three bastions face inland to defend against an attack from across the island. Within the perimeter of Fort Haldimand, several extant features remain. The basic outline of the powder magazine is visible today, the deep foundation excavated out of the limestone bedrock. A half-dozen standing chimneys, approximately 20 feet high, were an attraction for island tourists going back to the nineteenth century and were featured on numerous post cards of the time (see Figure 1). Only two chimneys are still standing, and are reduced to approximately a third of



Canada during the Revolutionary War.



Lori Lee at main trench.



N447E445 Level 5—Timber in situ.

their original height.

The archaeological work conducted as part of this most recent project was undertaken as the basis of my dissertation research in the Department of Anthropology, Syracuse University with the assistance of Thousand Islands Chapter members. The initial phase of the archaeological work on the island involved mapping the extant features and a shovel-test-pit survey. From these data we were able to delineate the limits of a soldiers' cabin, leading to its excavation as part of the second phase of archaeological work at Carleton Island (see Figure 2). The excavation revealed a substantial portion of a cabin's footing and an adjacent midden. It was excavated to recover data on provisioning and access to market goods for the soldiers who inhabited the island. The cabin, approximately fourteen by twenty feet in size, was not one of the initial structures built under the supervision of engineer James Glenie in 1778; he noted that barracks approximately 175 feet in length were under construction during the first year. This structure was likely part of a group that was added at a later date to expand the capacity of the garrison. This excavation has revealed a soldiers' residence—none of the materials recovered indicate officer rank—in obvious association with domestic materials. This provides an excellent opportunity for the investigation of a soldier's life on the frontier and their access to provisions and manufactured goods.

The British soldier on the North American frontier was often far from home and isolated from any large towns or cities. Their government was actively trying to hold on to territorial positions that were thousands of miles and an ocean away. History books have, for the most part, forgotten the existence of Fort Haldimand, but that fact and the diversity of activity on Carleton Island during the American Revolution makes this site an outstanding area for archaeological research. That the fort was occupied only by the British and predominantly during the American Revolution makes Fort Haldimand a valuable source of information. Fort Haldimand played an important role both in the defense of Canada and in Great Britain's attempt to maintain its hold on the American colonies. As an archaeological resource it continues to add to our knowledge of eighteenth century British military life.

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## Exhibits

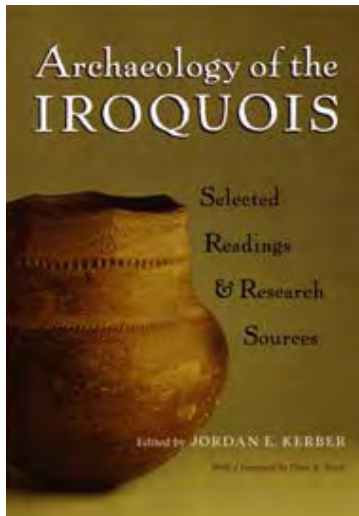
### Long Island

Additions were installed this spring to the permanent archaeology exhibit at the Rock Hall Museum, Lawrence, New York. The initial one-and-half room exhibit, designed by Dr. Annette Silver and Jo-Ann McLean, opened in 2000 and presented the results of their excavations at the museum grounds and within the museum cellar. The new installation, designed by Dr. Annette Silver and Ross T. Rava, graphics assistant, presents some of the results of mitigation excavations undertaken during subsequent years. Rock Hall, ca. 1767, is enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places and the New York State Revolutionary War Heritage Trail. Admission is free. Contacts for directions: 516-239-1157, [rockhallmuseum@aol.com](mailto:rockhallmuseum@aol.com).

### Orange County

“A Regiment of Heroes,” a show of paintings by artist Kevin Storms in tribute to the Soldiers of the 124th N.Y. at the 1841 Court House, Goshen, N.Y. Sept. 9-Nov. 30.

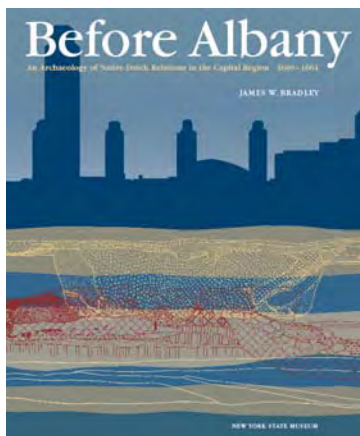
## Book News



Kerber, Jordan E. (editor). **Archaeology of the Iroquois: Selected Readings and Research Sources**. Syracuse Univ. Press. 2007. 557 pages, 1 color and 109 black and white illustrations, bibliography, index. \$45

This volume offers a compilation of 24 articles in 5 sections: Origins, Pre-Columbian Dynamics, Post-Columbian Dynamics, Material Culture Studies, and Contemporary

Iroquois Perspectives. A comprehensive research bibliography with more than 500 entries will be a key resource for specialists and non-specialists alike.



Bradley, James W. **Before Albany: An Archaeology of Native-Dutch Relations in the Capital Region, 1600-1664**. New York State Museum Bulletin 509. 2007. 230 pages., 159 figs. 5 tables., color. \$34.95.

Jim Bradley explores the interaction between Native Americans and the Dutch settlers

living in the Beverwijck settlement, now present day Albany. He discusses the mutual respect between the two groups and how, despite Albany's remote location and some conflicts, the liaison of Native people and the Dutch led to the settlement of the Capital Region. This volume appeals to a broad spectrum of individuals interested in the human and natural history of the area and its influence on the development of New York State's capital city.

## **The Bulletin of the Chenango Chapter of the NYSAA, Volume 30, No. 1, September, 2007.**

This Bulletin consists of 4 articles: two on the Diable site and one each on the Dungey and Cameron sites. At 128 pages, it contains numerous illustrations and tables and makes available data gathered by researchers now deceased including Richard Hosbach, Alex Neil, and Daniel Weiskotten. The Bulletin is \$15 plus \$3 for postage and handling. Checks should be made out to "Chenango Chapter" and mailed to Dr. Gerald Hayes, PO Box 21, Earlville, NY 13332.

## **New York State Council for the Humanities Speaker Series**

The New York State Council for the Humanities supports speakers for not-for-profit organizations within the state. Since NYSAA is a not-for-profit, NYSAA chapters qualify for this program. A number of the topics and speakers currently offered are relevant to New York State archaeology. You may check the Council's web site at <http://www.nyhumanities.org/> for a list of topics and speakers. It will be up to you to contact a potential speaker and then apply to the Council. If your application is successful, the Council for the Humanities covers the cost of the speaker's honorarium and travel expenses. Speakers events must be open to the public and free of charge.

## N.Y.S.A.A.



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The NYSAA website is located at:  
<http://nysaaweb.bfn.org/>

The editors encourage any NYSAA member who would like to submit an article, letter, editorial or news items to submit it electronically to either Bill or Sissie at the addresses listed above.

## Awards Information

### The Daniel H. Wieskotten Scholarship Fund.

This award is administered through the Beauchamp Chapter. It is offered to undergraduates in Anthropology and History. It is an award of \$500 and a year's membership in the NYSAA.

For information please contact Dr. Ellis McDowell-Loudan [lou-dane@sNYcorva.cortland.edu](mailto:lou-dane@sNYcorva.cortland.edu). The deadline for application is February 29, 2008.



Robert Funk in Yucatan  
Photo by John Avant.

## Funk Foundation Invites Applications for Fellowships

Avocational archaeologists have an opportunity to apply for modest financial support in a category of funding distinct from professionals and students.

Applications and examples of past projects appear on the web site of the Robert E. Funk Memorial Archaeology Foundation ([funkfoundation.org](http://funkfoundation.org)). Numerous past contributions from avocationalists have kept the foundation treasury steady over the past few years. Due to timing in conjunction with the fall NYSAA Newsletter, the target date for avocational applications in this annual cycle will be extended to November 15th.

Submitted by Christopher Lindner

## Meetings/Lectures

Fred Assmus will speak on "Life in the Upper Delaware Valley, 1230 B.C." at the Neversink Valley Area Museum on Nov. 7, 7:30 P.M., Cuddebackville, NY. Call (845) 754-8870 for more information.

The Eastern States Archaeological Federation will meet in the Double Tree Hotel (1-802-658-0250) in Burlington, VT, Nov. 8-11. Cara Lia Sargent, [cara.sargent@aya.yale.edu](mailto:cara.sargent@aya.yale.edu), is Arrangements Chair.

The Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter, NYSAA will be having their Christmas Banquet Sunday, December 9, 2007, at the Norton Grille, 60 West Main Street, Honeoye Falls NY, 5:00 – 9:00 PM, cost is \$20 for dinner. Dr. Mary Ann Niemczycki is the banquet speaker. Her talk is entitled *Out of the Heartland*. For information contact Martha Sempowski [msempowski@frontiernet.net](mailto:msempowski@frontiernet.net) or (585) 271-4320, ext. 368.