

NYSAA NEWSLETTER



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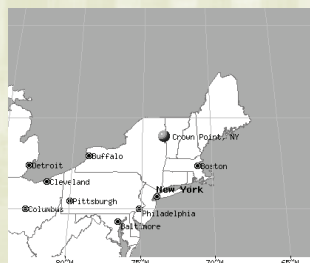
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The French Village at Crown Point: Where Was It?

By Paul Huey, New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation, Bureau of Historic Sites

Historians for more than 150 years have repeated the tradition that a large French village grew up at Crown Point during the French occupation before 1759, with extensive traces of it visible until recent times. The location and nature of this French settlement is one of the mysteries associated with this New York State Historic Site. Historical archeologists are now searching for an answer using documents, maps, and excavations.



Approximate Location of Crown Point

Indian trade was the basis for the conflict between France and England in North America in the 18th century. A 1713 treaty signed by both countries promised neither side would interfere with this trade. When the French decided to build a fort deep within New York at Crown Point, the Mohawk Indians and the English were

alarmed. The French king approved of the plan in April 1731, and a wooden fort was constructed across Lake Champlain from Crown Point, on Chimney Point. The king also approved plans to grant land to farmers.

By 1734, the French made plans to build a larger, more permanent stone fort on Crown Point. Named Fort St. Frédéric, it was completed in 1737. Also in 1737, farming settlements were proposed for both sides of the lake, while the north half of the Crown Point peninsula was to be reserved for the King. However, a windmill, barn, stable, and cow shed in which livestock were kept for hauling firewood were built within range of

**DOCUMENTARY
EVIDENCE**
Competition for the

Annual Meeting, April 2009

Our annual meeting was hosted by the Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter, April 17-19 at the Woodcliff Hotel and Resort, Rochester, NY. Registration for the meeting totaled 138. Douglas Pippin served as program chair and Martha Sempowski handled local arrangements. The NY-

SAA owes Doug, Martha and other hard working members of the Morgan Chapter thanks for making this annual meeting a resounding success.

Ninety-nine people attended the Saturday evening banquet and heard Dean Snow's

talk, "The Future of Archaeology: What Will be Our Legacy?" Prof. Snow, a fellow of the NYSAA and president of the Society for American Archaeology, urged the audience to preserve data in a digital form that will be available to others. **Continued on Page 5**

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THE FRENCH VILLAGE AT CROWN POINT, CONTINUED:

the new fort's cannon.

Long, narrow lots of land were laid out for farmers on the south half of the Crown Point peninsula beyond the "Dominion of the King" along with similar lots on the east side of the lake. One farmer with four children "built a house 30 feet long and as wide, a 40 foot barn, and has stocked this land with animals of all kinds." Each of the four children by 1741 occupied farm lots of their own. Another cluster of farms was settled on the west side of the lake south of the new fort and south of the reserved "Dominion of the King."

The growth of these settlements increasingly concerned the English. When war between England and France once more broke out in 1744, a crude map brought to the English by Indians shows "French settlements" at two locations on the east shore of the lake while on the west side is the fortified windmill and a cluster of structures close to Fort St. Frédéric. South of the fort are also two separate locations of "French settlements." These farms or clusters of farms were all relatively far from the French fort and thus were vulnerable to attack by English and Indian war parties.

The war ended in 1748 with the French still holding their Crown Point territory. A visitor to Crown Point in

July 1749 described the French houses near the fort as "huts" erected of perpendicular boards with wooden roofs. The gaps in the wood were filled with clay, and inside were clay or bedrock floors. Hearths were of limestone; there was no glass in windows. The visitor's description suggests the settlement had grown since the war ended, but it is possible this settlement closer to the fort began to be developed as farmers and inhabitants abandoned their more isolated farms for fear of attack. A 1751 census lists 19 men and 14 women living on the west side of the lake along with 12 boys above the age of 18, 14 girls above the age of 18, and two children 18 years or less. This made 61 inhabitants on the west side of the lake. If these boys remained, they soon would be establishing farms of their own, or they may have moved into the newer, more secure settlement closer to the fort.

War resumed in 1754. French raiding parties from Fort St. Frédéric again attacked the New England and New York frontiers. In August 1755, William Johnson's army advanced northward to destroy the French fort and end these attacks. Thousands of French troops poured into Crown Point to prepare a defense. Johnson sent scouts to spy on the French activities both at Crown Point and at Ticonderoga, where the French were

building yet another fort, called Carillon. Captain Robert Rogers discovered wheat fields, houses, and tents for troops near Fort St. Frédéric. The fort was expanded with a new fortification that reached to the water and enclosed buildings and tents outside the fort. During another spying mission, Rogers reported that he crept into a small village. This reference by Robert Rogers is probably the first specific evidence that there was a French village at Crown Point close to the French fort. Major General Johnson, however, advanced with his army no farther than the south end of Lake George.

English raids on Crown Point continued through the winter, with small parties of Indians or of Rangers under Captain Rogers creeping into abandoned French settlements, ambushing and taking prisoners, killing dozens of cattle, and setting fire to houses and barns. In one raid in February 1756 Rogers' Rangers burned "a small village, half a mile from the fort." In 1757 there was a successful French ambush and attack on a band of Rogers' Rangers, and this was followed by the French destruction of Fort William Henry at the south end of Lake George later that year and the defeat of a large English army at Ticonderoga in July 1758. Perhaps part of the small French village a half mile from the French fort that Rogers had burned



Detail from "Plan of the fort and fortress at Crown Point with their environs. With the disposition of the English Army under the command of Genl. Amherst encamp'd there 1759" (Library of Congress Geography and Map Division). This map shows no village houses but instead the encampments of Babcock's, Fitch's, and Schuyler's Provincial regiments in the village area. The "Sutlers of the Army" are located to the east near the Light Infantry Redoubt.



Detail from the map drawn in 1774 to document events of the great fire of April 21, 1773 (Public Archives of Canada). This map shows the English village southwest of the British fort. It also shows a separate "French Village" immediately adjacent to the "Old Citadel," which was Fort St. Frédéric.

THE FRENCH VILLAGE AT CROWN POINT, CONTINUED:

was rebuilt, but the relentless, terrifying raids by the English and Indians continued, and it was unsafe to venture very far outside the fort to the more distant farms. Supplies of food ran low.

The French realized that Fort St. Frédéric could not be held if the English captured the French fort at Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga fell to the large English army under General Jeffery Amherst at the end of July 1759, and the retreating French promptly also destroyed and left Fort St. Frédéric. The fort and the windmill were blown up and destroyed, but it is possible some of the French houses in the village a half mile southwest of the fort survived. An English village and market place, perhaps including former French houses, existed in that area until the Revolutionary War, when retreating American soldiers in October 1776 burned everything that was still standing at Crown Point.

ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Amateur archeological excavations in the area where traces of the abandoned traditional "French village" were and still are clearly visible were conducted from 1955 to 1958. English maps of 1768 and 1774 also showed a "village" there, and it was not surprising that many colonial English artifacts were

found in two of the sites. However, the outlines of houses uncovered in the 1950s with stone-paved terraces along one side, small back-to-back fireplaces, and a small cellar with wooden steps leading down suggested the possibility the houses were originally of French origin. Moreover, artifacts from beneath some of the paving stones appeared to be French.

Historical archeology has advanced greatly since 1958, both in terms of excavation techniques, knowledge of artifact typology, and the analysis of data. Limited test excavations are now being conducted to determine, if possible, whether the houses in this village site were in fact French structures built before the English occupation in 1759. Could the English village have been built on top of the French village? Were abandoned French houses occupied by sutlers (merchants who supplied non-military goods) and camp followers who arrived with the English army? Excavation of some of the other visible features may reveal additional information. Were the ridges actually streets, or were some of them landscape features such as garden walls or fences?

The village site area contains many intriguing traces of not only ridges that may have been streets but also mounds that may be col-

lapsed chimneys and depressions that are probably cellar holes. It is now a part of Crown Point State Historic Site and is carefully preserved and protected. The site is a highly significant archeological resource. Since archeological excavation is a process in which the actual evidence of history is removed from the ground, a site is destroyed in the process. As technology steadily advances, future excavation techniques will undoubtedly be more sophisticated and able to extract much more information from the earth than is presently possible. Archeological sites are finite resources, and therefore the archeological resources of this protected site will be carefully conserved for study by generations of future archeologists as well as by those of the present. Excavations are thus limited to the extent that is necessary to address specific and carefully formulated research questions.

Between July 20 and Aug. 6 we will be in the field at Crown Point seeking the pre-1759 French village. Then on Sept. 18-19 there will be walking tours of the site and the excavations. Contact Crown Point State Historic Site for more information about this event. Phone (518) 597-4666 or (518) 597-3666.



Intact scratch-blue white salt-glazed stoneware cup excavated from the house site in 1955. The Present Location of this artifact is unknown..



Base of English delft punch bowl inscribed 'Come Sam Drink a Bout', excavated in 2008.

SAA POSTER SESSION

The Council of Affiliated Societies of the Society for American Archaeology is sponsoring a poster session at the 75th anniversary meeting in St. Louis next year, April 14-18. The tentative title of the session is: "Avocational Archaeology Making a Difference: Who's Done It and Who's Doing It." The poster should contain pictures along with a brief biography of the individual including any contributions to fieldwork, publications, newsletter or journal editing, lobbying efforts to enact archaeological legislation, site stewardship, and service to the NYSAA.

The NYSAA will not be coordinating this, but NYSAA members are

invited to participate. Many individuals associated with the NYSAA who might be the subject of a poster come to mind including past members Theodore Whitney, Charles Wray, and Donald Lenig, or current member Gordon De Angelo. Lisa Marie Anselmi and Bill Engelbrecht plan to do a poster on Jack Holland. To present a poster, you must also be a member of the SAA. Please see the SAA web site for abstract and registration forms for the meeting. You will need to confirm your intention to participate with either Marcel Kronfield, anrol@uwyo.edu, or Kathy Poetschat, cpoetschat@msn.com, as soon as possible. Marcel Kornfield will need your abstract by Aug. 22.

Every year, the Council of Affiliated Societies and the Society for American Archaeology sponsor a state poster competition. The NYSAA regularly contributes to the production of the NY State poster, but to date NYAC has taken the responsibility for developing it. In 2013 the NYSAA will have this responsibility. One possibility for this poster might be avocational contributions to NY archaeology. Participation in the 2010 session in St. Louis could then provide the NYSAA with material for the 2013 poster.

BEADWORK EXHIBIT

Sewing the Seeds: 200 Years of Iroquois Glass Beadwork is an exhibit of beadwork that is open until October 4th at the Rockwell Museum of Western Art in Corning, New York. It features over 300 pieces of amazing pincushions, picture frames, purses, and clothing created by talented Haudenosaunee bead artists over a span of two centuries. Iroquois beadwork made in New York, Ontario, and Quebec demonstrate a cultural continuum from simple 18th century pincushions to elaborate brightly colored contemporary 21st century purses. Three cases feature a time line that traces the evolution of the major Iroquois beadwork traditions while others exhibit beadwork that depicts animals, dates, and place names. One case shows beadwork that celebrates the strawberry, the Head of the Medicinal Plants, which symbolizes cleansing and renewal. Another case features beadwork picturing animals such as a lion, an elephant, a goat, and a pig. Victorian inspired boot shaped pincushions fill a couple cases while one case shows beaded artistry on moccasins. The majority of the pieces of beadwork are from the collection of NYSAA member, Dolores Elliott, who has collected Iroquois beadwork for over thirty years. Her obsession has driven her to build what is probably the world's largest collection of Iroquois beadwork. So visit the Rockwell Museum to get a glimpse of her passion. And, if you mention that you are a friend of Dolores Elliott, you will get free admission to the museum which has a lot of other really nice exhibits too.

SYMPOSIUM ON LONG ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Institute for Long Island Archaeology at Stony Brook University and the Center for Public Archaeology at Hofstra University have organized a one day symposium on Long Island Archaeology on September 26, 2009. The event is intended to bring together scholars, students, and the public to talk about Long Island archaeology. Our list of presenters includes Christopher Matthews, Gaynell Stone, Dan Mazeau, Jenna Coplin, James

Moore, and Allison Manfra. David Bernstein will provide a plenary presentation.

There is still room for a few more presenters. We invite Archaeologists to present a 20 minute paper on recent archaeological research on Long Island prehistory or history. The symposium will be held on September 26, 2009 at the Wang Center, Stony Brook University.

If you are interested in presenting, please contact Allison Manfra ASAP at amanfra@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. She can also be contacted for more information about the event.

Allison J. Manfra
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Anthropology Department
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ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED:

At the banquet, Ellis McDowell-Loudan presented the \$500 Weiskotten scholarship award to Steven Goldstein, an anthropology major and a junior at SUNY Stony Brook. A total of \$305.35 was collected at the meeting for the scholarship fund. For details on the scholarship, see our web site.

Following Dean Snow's talk, Peter Pratt, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented Meritorious Service Awards to Gail Merian, Anne Dyjak, Daniel Nobel, and Jordan Kerber, all of the Chenango Chapter. Merit Awards went to Daryl Wonderly and Gerald Hayes, both of the Chenango Chapter. Joseph Zarzynski (Adirondack Chapter, Bateaux Below) and Anthony Wonderley (Chenango Chapter) each received the Fellow Award.

At the Business meeting on Friday

evening, \$300 contributions were approved for the Funk Foundation, the Fisher Fund (New York State Museum), and Archaeology Season. Diana Wall (Metropolitan Chapter) was named NYSAA liaison to PANYC (Professional Archaeologists in New York City). Three new committees were also established. Members are urged to volunteer by contacting the committee chair.

1. Public Service Award, chaired by Bill Sandy, bill-sandy1936@hotmail.com. This committee will select individuals for this award who have worked to preserve and protect archaeological sites within the state. Award winners need not be members of the NYSAA.

2. High School Archaeology Clubs, chaired by Christina Rieth,

crieth@mail.nysed.gov. This is a sub-committee of the Membership Committee (chaired by Sherene Baugher, sbb8@cornell.edu) and will provide guidance for high school archaeology clubs and other youth groups.

3. Archives, chaired by Bill Bouchard, jbouchard@hartgen.com. This committee will inventory and make recommendations regarding documents pertaining to the history of the association.

Next year's meeting will be hosted by the Incorporated Orange Co. Chapter, April 23-25 at Honor's Haven Resort and Spa, Ellenville, NY.



Cocktails: (L to R), Fran McLashion, Joseph Zarzynski, Louise Basa, Bill Engelbrecht (right of center) Photo by Robert Gorall



Prof. Dean Snow, Banquet Speaker and Society for American Archaeology President. Photo by Robert Gorall

IN
MEMORIAM:

Former Inc. Orange Co. Chapter - NYSAA Vice-President Dwight Warren, promoter of NY State archaeology and paleontology passed away May 18 after a long illness. He helped save Dutchess Quarry Caves and gave countless tours. He played an important role on the Hyde Park mastodon and countless digs from Saratoga to Montauk to Wawayanda. Dwight was born Jan. 6, 1955, in Middletown, N.Y., the son of Harry and Joyce E. (Mayfield) Warren. He passed away at his home Monday, May 18, 2009, at the age of 54.



Banquet (L to R): Mrs. Allen, Kathy Allen, Dolores Elliott, Sherene Baugher, Lois Feister (facing Sherene), and Mike Roets. Photo by Robert Gorall

Announcements

New York State Library

by Jesse Walker

NY State Library's Digital Collections contains several CRM reports and full-text books. See link below and click on search digital collections. These books along with others are available for download.

Funk, Robert E.
1976 Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory.
Memoir 22. New York
State Museum, Albany.

Event: CNEHA Annual Conference

"Historical Archaeology Today:
New Frontiers in Interdisciplinary Studies"
What: Convention
Host: Historical Archaeology
Start Time: Friday, October 16 at
8:00am
End Time: Sunday, October 18 at
11:00pm
Where: Université Laval, Québec, Canada



Ritchie, William and Robert Funk 1973 Aboriginal Settlement Patterns in the Northeast. Memoir 20.

Hart, John P. (editor)
1999 Current Northeastern Paleoethnobotany. New York State Museum Bulletin No.494. New York State Museum, Albany.

<http://nysl.nysed.gov/uhtbin/cgisirsi/Bp8meL4XWV/NYSL/0/49>

N Y S A A P a t c h e s

The Morgan Chapter has a number of great looking NY-SAA patches available for purchase. The patch is a 3" colored embroidered copy of the NYSAA logo. It can be used as a shoulder, vest or hat patch. It's a super way to promote the NYSAA and gives NYSAA members the opportunity to be identified with the organization. Great for use in the field, at conferences, at Chapter gatherings, while traveling, or just about anywhere that provides visibility to the NYSAA. The cost for the patch is \$4.25 which includes shipping and handling. Chapters or individual members can email Morgan Chapter member Greg Hunt at ghunt1@rochester.rr.com to order patches or for more information on larger orders.

B O O K R E V I E W

Iroquoian Archaeology and Analytic Scale

Edited by Laurie E. Miroff and Timothy D. Knapp, 295 pp, 64 figs., 27 tables, The University of Tennessee Press, 2009, \$48.00.

A more robust archaeological interpretation can be produced if a multiscale approach is brought to bear on the study of the past. In *Iroquoian Archaeology and Analytic Scale*, ten contributors conducting studies of groups centered around New York State and southern Ontario present contemporary research focused not only on examining the role of scale and how it impacts the field of Iroquoian studies, but also how archaeologists studying other Native Americans can expand their own research.

Specifically, the contributors employ a variety of spatial, temporal, and methodological scales to reveal patterns and insights into the cultural interactions that might otherwise be missed by a less multiscale approach. Furthermore, the diversity of research spans nearly a millennium, from A.D. 900 to 1800, and encompasses several different topographical settings, including major river floodplains, upland headwater areas, and terraces along smaller tributaries, yielding a plethora of current findings from the largest of villages to the smallest of seasonal campsites. Laurie E. Miroff and Timothy D. Knapp have organized these essays in roughly chronological fashion and provide an introduction that addresses the importance of a multiscale analysis.

This volume of Iroquoian-specific yet wide-ranging essays will be of interest to anyone specializing in Native American studies in the Northeast. It will also benefit archaeologists who wish to gain a better understanding of how using a multiscale approach in their own research can be an integral step toward a more dynamic view of the Native American lived experience.

